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Heavy rain causes chaos

By RAINE MARCUS and DAVID RUDGE

Torrential rain and thunderstorms caused chaos on the country's roads and in certain residential areas yesterday.

The Sharon district suffered heavy flooding, especially in the Kfar Sava, Ra'anana and Herzliya areas, which got over 90 millimeters of rain. Sharon police set up a situation room and police and firefighters had to rescue trapped residents, mostly the elderly and children. The navy was also called to rescue people in rubber dinghies on badly flooded streets.

Youngsters were plucked to safety from water-logged kindergartens and tractors lifted motorists from their roofs of their swamped cars.

In Ra'anana around 30 cars parked in the city's underground parking lot on Rehov Har Sinai were inaccessible due to flooding and the manager of the Co-op supermarket above complained that goods in its warehouse there were ruined. A gas station near the Ra'anana interchange was completely washed out by floods and drivers were stranded there for a couple of hours.

Vivi, a Ra'anana resident, went down to her apartment block's cellar to check on boxes containing her belongings. She found herself waist-deep in water, and climbed the wall-mounted ladder to a ventilation shaft, where she was stuck for nearly 15 minutes until her calls for help were eventually heard by her mother and a neighbor.

Many of Rehovot's streets were also blocked by flooding, and many vehicles got stuck in deep puddles. Surprisingly, Tel Aviv suffered little flooding, but there were increased traffic jams in the city's main streets.

A twin-engine Cessna plane, deployed to "sow clouds," a process used to increase rainfall, crashed just minutes after take-off from Ben-Gurion Airport. Civil Aviation authority manager Menahem Sharon said that one of the engines failed and the two pilots had to make a forced landing. The two were taken to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.



A Kfar Sava gas station attendant finds a novel way to keep from getting his feet wet during yesterday's heavy rain, which flooded many areas of the country. (Ansel Shilo/Israel Sun)

Pilot Zvi Erlich was treated for moderate injuries while the second pilot, Shmuel Ram, was lightly injured.

The heavy rain continued throughout the day, especially in the Sharon region, accompanied by winds of up to 50 kilometers per hour and isolated thunderstorms.

It was the first heavy rain since the beginning of what has so far been a dry winter. The meteorological service said the rain would continue in

the central and southern districts throughout today before petering out tomorrow.

The forecasts said there was a risk of more flooding in low-lying areas and advised motorists not to travel on roads in the south because of the risk of flash floods in the Arava and Negev.

The staff at the Mt. Hermon ski site were still pessimistic, however. The site, which was closed for most

of the winter, opened last Friday after relatively moderate snowfalls that proved insufficient for proper skiing.

The news about the Lake Kinneret water level was also far from encouraging. Mekorot reported that the level of water had actually fallen by one centimeter since its slight rise following last week's rain, and was still only 1.43 centimeters from its low-level mark.

Bill allowing Israelis abroad to vote passes first hurdle

By LIAT COLLINS

Israelis with valid Israeli passports would be able to vote in general elections here, under a bill the Knesset passed yesterday in its preliminary reading.

The bill, proposed by MK Ruvy Rivlin (Likud), caused a furor both in the plenum and in the Knesset corridors. Right-wing MKs said it would strengthen the ties between Israel and its citizens abroad, while MKs from the Left said it would encourage emigration.

After a stormy debate, the bill passed, 22 to 17. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and several ministers participated in the vote.

Rivlin said the bill aimed to prevent the need to schedule general elections around the summer holidays because large numbers of Israelis vacation abroad at that time.

The bill, an amendment to the Elections Law, would allow any Israeli with a valid passport who is abroad on polling day to vote at embassies and consulates. Under the current law, only diplomatic staff, government emissaries, and Zim merchant sailors can vote outside the country.

Current data indicates that there are some 600,000 Israeli emigrants. Rivlin estimates that if the bill passes its final reading, some 350,000 emigrants will be able to vote. This is equivalent to between eight and 10 Knesset seats.

The Likud believes most of these votes will go to right-wing parties.

"You can no longer call the hundreds of thousands of Israelis living abroad 'wimpy drop-outs' as the late Yitzhak Rabin did," said Rivlin. "The best of the country's youth goes abroad for different periods to study, work, or even to find themselves."

Rivlin lashed back at the opposition MKs who denounced the bill in the plenum.

"It's incomprehensible that the cry comes from those MKs from the Left who are prepared to give away large parts of the land, citing

Knesset and deciding our fate. They'll send our children to war and their children to college."

Uzi Baram (Labor) said the fact that the prime minister turned up for the vote "only goes to show the scandalous fact that he wants the emigrants to be the ones to determine the election results in Israel."

Ehud Barak, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, called the bill "a scandal of the highest order. Only someone who lives here, defends the country or is serving it abroad should be able to vote. A person who lies his fate to that of a different country should not determine our fate here."

Ophir Pines (Labor) described the vote as "a tragedy" and asked, "How can those who call themselves the national camp give legitimacy to emigration? The nationalist camp has become the defeatist camp."

Dalia Itzik, who heads the Labor Party's response team, said: "It is the beginning of the end of Zionism in Israel and an attempt to determine the outcome of the election results in Israel by those who chose to leave it."

Coalition MKs, however, rejected the criticism and Michael Kleiner (Geshet) described it as "an attack of hysteria by the Left."

He said most enlightened countries allow their citizens living or residing abroad to participate in elections. "That's what happens in the U.S., England, Germany and even Russia," he said.

"Not all the emigrants are Likud voters and most of the tourists,

Continued on Page 4

Political scientist backs bill, Expatriates in US look forward to voting, Page 2

demographic reasons. Why not let the thousands of Israelis who are still attached to the country influence the future of their country?"

Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen blasted the law as "anti-Zionist" and said it "encourages emigration and allows those who abandoned Israel to decide on behalf of those who live here." He made scathing remarks against Netanyahu, describing him as "someone who had hardly lived here."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "The government supports emigrants who do not do military reserve duty or pay taxes and don't take part in our moments of joy and grief. They'll enjoy the greatest honor of electing the

Gov't unveils partial privatization list

By DAVID HARRIS

Bezeq, Zim Israel Navigation Co. Ltd. and Israel Chemicals Ltd. will be among the first companies to be fully privatized under the Netanyahu government.

The Ministerial Committee on Privatization last night heard for the first time which companies will be sold, but was not given a timetable.

"We intend to sell all the profit-oriented companies," said Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni. However, she did not give the number of firms to be sold, the sums expected to be paid, or a timetable for the sales.

The companies that are considered ripe for sale now, some of which are already in the first stages of privatization, are: Bezeq, the Israel National Oil Co. Ltd., Yozma Venture Capital Ltd., Israel Chemicals, Zim, Afridar (Ashkelon real estate

developer), Laromne Hotels International Ltd., the Israel School of Tourism, the Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corp Ltd., Eilat Foreshore Development Co. Ltd., and Arad and Dead Sea Region Development Co. Ltd.

"These will be sold as soon as possible, but of course responsibly," Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon said before outlining the proposals to the committee.

A second set of companies will be tackled, once it is felt they are in a state of preparedness: El Al, Investment Company for Industrial Development in Israel, Industrial Development Bank of Israel Ltd., 12 government funds, Tadmor Hotel School Ltd., Marine Trust Ltd., Israel Bank of Agriculture Ltd., Israel Wine Institute, Building Center of Israel, and Otzar Hashilton Hamikomi Ltd.

Referring to the large monopolistic companies, such as Israel Electric Corporation and Mekorot

Water Co. Ltd., Leon said their entire industrial sector must be reformed before they can be privatized.

The companies will be sold using five methods, according to Leon: public flotation on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, flotations abroad, private sales of the controlling shares, the break up or merging of companies, and asset stripping.

"We think we can do it, not in one year, but over several good years," said Leon.

The notable absentee from the list of methods is the Labor-supported sale by vouchers to all citizens of Israel, the so-called options program.

The cabinet was scheduled to meet yesterday to discuss the outstanding structural reforms package of demonopolization and deregulation aimed at complementing the privatization program. The meeting, however, was postponed with no future date having yet been arranged.

PM: Upcoming meeting with Clinton will deal with restarting Syrian talks

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and HILLET KUTTNER

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu believes that during his meeting with President Bill Clinton in the first week of February, discussions will be held on "bridging proposals" to serve as the basis for resuming talks with Syria.

In an interview last night on Channel 1, Netanyahu voiced confidence that his US visit will "speed up" the resumption of negotiations with Damascus, which broke off a year ago.

In remarks to the diplomatic corps yesterday, Foreign Minister David Levy suggested that one basis for resuming the talks could be UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for trading territories for peace.

The last Likud government recognized the resolution as the basis for the invitation to the 1991 Madrid peace conference, but neither that government nor the Netanyahu government had ever

said that 242 would be the basis for talks about the Golan Heights.

The Labor government, however, did state this, during its first round of talks with Syria.

So far, Netanyahu has yet to say that 242 is the basis for talks with Syria, but instead has called for talks without preconditions. Indeed, though he mentioned Resolution 242 in his remarks,

Continued on Page 4

France calls on owners of Nazi-looted art to claim it

By TOM GROSS

The French government yesterday invited owners of 2,000 artworks stolen from Jews by the Nazis, which for almost half a century have been on display at French museums, to reclaim their work.

Experts here say that if the owners cannot be traced, the art should be brought to Israel.

On Tuesday, *Le Figaro* revealed that the official French government auditor, the Cour des Comptes, had alleged that for 50 years the state-run Musées de France made practically no effort to publicize the fact that various

paintings and sculptures in its collections had been looted during the Nazi occupation, despite having a legal obligation to seek the rightful owners.

Among 1,878 such pieces now held at The Louvre museum in Paris are works by Monet, Renoir, Gauguin and Rodin. The Musée d'Orsay, also in Paris, holds 85 stolen works. Others are to be found in various museums and galleries throughout France.

Under a law passed in December 1949, French museums are required to publicize their guardianship of the works and to try to find out who owned them.

"Under the circumstances, it would be impossible not to report that the state, and in particular the management of the Musées de France, will have failed in its obligation to publicize the works."

Continued on Page 4

Keren Kayemeth Leyisrael

Announces

that, because of the welcome rains and stormy weather the KKL events scheduled for today, Tu Bishvat (Thursday, Jan. 23) including ceremonies, tours and Atzor, Ta Vesa (Stop, Plant and Go) activities will not take place.

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NEWS

in brief

Police have shootout with robber

Police and a robber had a shootout in a Jerusalem apartment yesterday, but the robber apparently escaped to the territories after injuring one of the officers. Neighbors in the Old Katamon neighborhood alerted police when they saw the robber breaking into an apartment. When police surprised the robber in the apartment, the robber shot at them, injuring one. The unarmed policeman shot back at the robber, who then escaped. Police said the robber is a resident of the territories who is known to police. *Itim*

Driver crashes down ditch, is hit by train

A driver was seriously injured early yesterday morning when he lost control of his car on the Yavne-Ashdod road, crashed down a ditch onto railroad tracks, and was then hit by a passing train which dragged the car 100 meters.

The accident occurred on a bend in the road at 2 a.m. A Magen David Adom team arrived on the scene and brought the driver to the hospital. Police are investigating the accident.

A 32-year-old woman was struck and killed by a bus yesterday in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul neighborhood. Witnesses said she slipped under the bus's wheels while trying to get aboard. Meanwhile, five-year-old Irena Tatarsenko of Tsur Shalom, who was struck by a car while crossing the street in Kiryat Bialik a week ago, died yesterday of her injuries. *Itim*

Palestinian infiltrator caught on PA bus

IDF troops caught an Arab infiltrator attempting to sneak into Israel yesterday while hiding in the baggage compartment of a bus transporting Palestinian police from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. The man was located during a routine security check, the army said. The infiltrator as well as the bus driver were handed over to the Israel Police for interrogation.

The IDF also protested to the Palestinian Authority over the attempted infiltration on one of their buses and requested that they prevent such incidents in the future, the army said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Senior US counter-terrorism officials here

A senior US defense and military delegation is here to work with Israeli counter-terrorism experts as part of President Clinton's commitment to fight terror, defense officials said. The US team is being led by H. Allen Holmes, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations. *Arieh O'Sullivan*



Heralding Hadassah

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg (left), his wife (center) and Hadassah President Marilyn Post attend last night's opening ceremony of the Hadassah National Board Midwinter Conference in Jerusalem. Also attending was Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who returns next week to Russia for the first time since his release nine years ago from a Soviet prison. He said he has no feelings of malice toward the country, since the regime which incarcerated him no longer exists. "The new challenges we have are not there, but here," he said. *(Text: Greer Fay Cashman; Photo: Isaac Harari)*

Gov't releasing more homes in territories for sale

By HERB KEINON

A Housing Ministry-sponsored advertisement appeared in a number of newspapers yesterday offering some 1,500 housing units in the territories whose sale was frozen under the previous government.

The decision to lift the freeze on these apartments was made in October, and nearly 1,500 of the 3,000 units that were completed but not sold under the Rabin government have been sold since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office.

Settlement leaders said the others were not sold because potential buyers were waiting for implementation of the government decision to give settlements Development Area A status.

Once this decision is implemented, buyers will in many cases benefit from better mortgage terms.

The government decided after the terrorist murder of Efraim and Etta Tzur in December to confer this status on the settlements, after the Labor government had revoked it.

The target date for implementation was January 15. That this date passed without the decision being implemented had infuriated settlement leaders.

At a meeting of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza on Tuesday, it was decided to begin a hunger strike if the new status was not implemented forthwith. Settlement leaders believe the decision by the Housing Ministry to now actively market the homes presages the imminent implementation of the Development Area A status.

Yehudit Tayar, a spokeswoman for the council, said the move to sell the apartments is "one small step" toward fulfilling promises

the Netanyahu government made to the settlements.

"This is the first sign that they are starting to implement certain promises," she said.

The Housing Ministry has set prices for the homes to be marketed, with the prices dependent on the size of the housing units, and the distance the settlement is from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Sample prices include:

- A 90-meter, three-room house in Eli in Samaria: Between \$90,000 to \$105,000.

- A four-room apartment in Beit El Bet: \$120,000.

- A 72-meter, two-floor home in Ofra: \$81,000.

- A 70-meter home in Kadim, just south of Jenin: \$41,000.

- A 90-meter mobile home in Netzarim in Gaza, for rent only, \$73 a month.

The mortgages that perspective buyers will receive will vary from settlement to settlement. For instance, if someone would receive a NIS 120,000 mortgage for an apartment in Karmel Shomron, they would receive an additional NIS 50,000 if they decided to go to a settlement further into Samaria. Of this, some NIS 20,000 would become a grant.

Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, said that the marketing of these apartments shows that the government is operating "on two contradictory paths, that lack the necessary confluence for a responsible, bona fide policy."

"On the one hand they are encouraging growth and expansion of communities in Judea and Samaria, although too slowly."

"But they are also continuing down the Oslo path with further redeployments. Eventually they will see this is a collision course, and then they will hopefully place an emphasis on the Jewish communities," he said.

South Africa defers arms sale to Syria

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

The South African cabinet announced yesterday that it was deferring a controversial plan to sell sophisticated arms to Syria. The cabinet announcement in Pretoria yesterday said only that the decision had been deferred for technical reasons.

"These consultations have in fact not yet been concluded and the matter is being held over until a next meeting of the cabinet," Cabinet Secretary Jakes Gerwel told a news conference, adding that the decision would not necessarily be taken when the cabinet met

in the region. "Moreover, any decision by Pretoria to reconsider the sale would occur after it has taken into account the political situation in the Middle East."

The cabinet announcement in Pretoria yesterday said only that the decision had been deferred for technical reasons.

"These consultations have in fact not yet been concluded and the matter is being held over until a next meeting of the cabinet," Cabinet Secretary Jakes Gerwel told a news conference, adding that the decision would not necessarily be taken when the cabinet met

again in two weeks' time.

At issue was the possible sale to Syria of computerized tank-firing and guidance systems, in a deal worth \$650 million.

Talk of the sale raised protests by both Washington and Jerusalem. The US threatened to cut off aid to Pretoria over the issue, noting that Syria is on the State Department's Terrorism List.

Ten days ago, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur summoned South African Ambassador Frank Land to protest the move.

EYEWITNESS

Joint patrols proving a success

By JON HEMANUEL

On Har Manoach, as the rain clouds gathered, IDF soldiers and Palestinian police prepared yesterday to set off on another of the joint patrols which were inaugurated this week.

The soldiers are chosen according to their ability to get along. In every patrol there is an Israeli Arabic speaker, and an English speaker on both sides. Usually, at least one of the Palestinian policemen speaks Hebrew.

Col. Munir Daher, who heads the Border Police contingents, said at a press conference introducing the joint patrols that there was another criterion. "A soldier who expresses opinions, or does things that are an expression of an opinion, not in keeping with the task is assigned to another task."

His meaning is plain: Political opinions can no longer be ignored in the sensitive operations which are becoming part of the army's regular job.

The patrols have been operating since December 1995 in the Hebron region, but not in Hebron itself. Col. Hassan Hijazi, the Palestinian commander, said that the entire year there have been no problems.

"All the residents of Hebron, Jewish and Palestinian, see the joint patrol, see the cooperation," he said referring to the patrol as a peace brigade.

"Obviously both sides learned from the trauma of the events [when Palestinian police opened fire on soldiers in September] but in Hebron there has been complete coordination and no similar incidents," said Daher.

Brig.-Gen. Herzl Getsch, head of the overall joint military liaison committee, was more cautious in an

interview on Israel Radio's Arabic service. "The various groups in the population find it difficult to get accustomed to the new situation in light of past experiences. Such a process of reconciliation needs time."

Hijazi, heavily built with bushy, silvery hair bursting from under his beret, seems to have been picked for his congeniality. Daher, a Druse career officer with close-cropped hair and slight build, is the image of propriety. The two sides reside on different sides of the camp at Har Manoach, a hill overlooking southern Hebron, which serves as the home of the District Coordinating Office. They also eat separately. The Israelis avoid eating lunch in front of their Palestinian colleagues during the month-long Ramadan fast. However the formal separateness did not stop Hijazi from entering the Israeli barracks with a large plate of sweet Arab cakes after nightfall one day last week when the daytime fast had ended.

There are two joint patrols and two joint mobile units. The patrol on Route 35 runs around the clock. The others go 16 hours a day starting at 6:30. The patrols follow a fixed route and the mobile units cover an area starting from a fixed point.

One route starts on Route 60, Derech Hashalom, at Glass Square in H-1 at the northern entrance to Hebron and continues south to the edge of H-2 where the IDF then resumes full control, and to Dura junction, south of Hebron near Beit Hagai.

The other starts on Route 35, at Givat Harsina near Kiryat Arba, goes west through Glass Square and on to Tarkumiye. The joint mobile units operate in Abu Snehneh and Harat a-Sheikh, on the high ground overlooking the Old City of Hebron, ready to respond to any emergency.

NEWSLINE

with Prof. Gabriel Sheffer

What do you think about giving the vote to Israeli citizens not living in the country?

I do not oppose it. The claim that Israel is becoming a "normal" country is correct. As long as the citizenship laws are not changed and persons are permitted to migrate freely, to keep their passports and hold dual citizenship, there is no reason why they shouldn't vote.

Does this exist in other countries?

Yes, it is the case in many progressive countries such as the US and even in countries such as Russia.

But aren't the proportions, between citizens of those large countries living abroad and at home, different from the proportions of Israelis living abroad and in this country?

It is a question of principle and not proportions. So long as it is possible to keep renewing an Israeli passport, and so long as the law is not changed, it is essential [to give them the vote]. I am not in favor of changing the law. Citizens should be free to come and go as they wish. There must be freedom of movement in the global village.

But there is an even more important point. Israel's true Diaspora is the Israelis living abroad.

But they don't pay taxes or serve in the army.

Some of them, those who want to return, pay national insurance. Some have served in the army. They don't pay income tax if their earnings come from abroad. The central issue is whether we want to alienate the Israelis abroad - or to try and maintain a connection with them. They can assist us in times of need, politically and otherwise.

How about the Knesset bill and the reasons given for it?

I don't like the context in which the bill was passed [in preliminary reading]. It was good that MK Ruvy Rivlin came out from about it. I am not sure the Likud is right to believe that it will have an absolute majority among this sector.

In principle, it is true that the Diaspora tends to be more hawkish, especially about security issues. But under certain circumstances, the principle is reversed. For example, if there is a change in the national mood before an election, there can be a change there too. But there is no comprehensive research on the subject and very little professional literature on the Israelis living abroad.

Gabriel Sheffer is a Hebrew University political scientist.

Batsheva Tsor

Many Israelis in US look forward to voting

By MARILYN HENRY and TOM TUGEND

NEW YORK — The prospect of voting in Israeli elections was gleefully anticipated by many Israelis in the metropolitan New York area, both for the ballot and its symbolism.

The voting measure "seems to be last step in a slow process [to stop] disenfranchising anyone who is Israeli and living outside the country," said Uri Barzel, a doctor in New York. Israel will always export some people, but "recognizing that they are still part of the country is wonderful," Barzel said. He recalled that each time his family left Israel, he would have to get permission from the army and to pay the travel tax. "We had the obligations but none of the rights" of Israelis, Barzel said.

"Recognizing that we have rights is wonderful."

However, Amir Cohen took the opposing view of the voting measure, although he acknowledged that his sentiment is not widely shared.

"I am against it," said Cohen, the general manager of *Metrowest Jewish News*, a weekly newspaper in New Jersey. Five years ago, he returned to Israel to vote.

In Los Angeles, Dr. Isaac Berman, a psychologist who has lived in US since early 1950s said: "I am ambivalent, because I would vote here as an American and in Israel as an Israeli. 'Nevertheless, I will exercise my right to vote in future Israeli elections in order to express my opinion and have some impact on who leads Israel.'"

"I, myself, am a Merez supporter, but I think a slight majority of Israelis here would vote for Likud, but very few for the religious right."

Avi Obligensz, a journalist in the US for 14 years said: "This is a considerable, and I would say, revolutionary gesture toward Israelis living here."

"In the past, the Israeli government tried to isolate us and make us feel guilty. Israel now realizes that we live in a different era and that we, living abroad, want to be involved in our home country."

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The Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. (The IEC) hereby announces the publication of the List of Approved Suppliers (The List). The List will be available for public review at the IEC offices from February 1, 1997, Sunday to Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Suppliers who are interested in receiving applications for inclusion in the List or in obtaining other information may contact, in writing: Israel Electric Corporation Ltd., Suppliers Qualification and Approval, Supply and Stores Div., 11 Pal-Yam Blvd. Haifa 33095. Tel. 04-8645514.

Israel Airports Authority

Tender No. 4/97 for license to provide money changing services, VAT refunds and financial services at Ben-Gurion Airport.

CORRECTION

1. The Israel Airports Authority announces a change in the above tender notice which was published in the press on January 9, 1997. The date for submitting bids with all the documents and addenda, in accordance with the tender conditions, has been postponed to February 10, 1997 at 10 a.m.
2. There are no other changes in the notice.

Man threatens to blow himself up near Rabin's house

By RAINE MARCUS

A Jaffa man threatened to blow himself up outside Leah Rabin's home in Ramat Aviv yesterday if he was not allowed to speak to her.

The man, 37, who does not have a police record, told police that he had attached bombs to his body and his car also contained explosives. Massive forces of police and sappers arrived at Rabin's home on Rav Ashi Street and Dan district chief Dep. Cmdr. Eli Aza and other police talked the man out of carrying out his threat. His car was found parked in the area. Sappers checked it thoroughly for bombs, but found that it contained large canisters of water. The man did not

have bombs strapped to himself, either.

He was apprehended and taken to police headquarters in Ramat Gan for questioning, but his motive was not clear.

The man appeared earlier in the day at the Jaffa headquarters of Army Radio and said that if certain legal problems of his were not dealt with immediately, he would blow himself up.

After arguments, the man left the building and police were informed of his description and his car license plates.

Police began searching for him, and when he arrived at Rabin's home some three hours later, police discovered it was the same man.

Arafat: We'll set up a state

A Palestinian state will be established "at the appropriate time," following Israel's final pullback in the territories late next year, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Cairo yesterday.

In response, Prime Minister Netanyahu said on Channel 1 that Israel has a plan of action should Arafat carry through his plan.

Labor leadership candidate Ehud Barak said last night that "The Palestinians will determine their own fate. We would prefer a confederation with Jordan."

"But a Palestinian state, even if it is limited by agreement and in certain aspects of sovereignty, is likely to be the result of the process," *(Itim)*

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Weizman mentioned release of Jewish prisoners

Kiryat worke the F

By DAVID HENRY

Increasing violence in Jaffa schools and must be stopped. Education Minister. The commission. Incidents of physical abuse in schools, also punishment. Parents and police. The teachers. Jaffa has social.

Gov Violence

By DAVID HENRY

Increasing violence in Jaffa schools and must be stopped. Education Minister. The commission. Incidents of physical abuse in schools, also punishment. Parents and police. The teachers. Jaffa has social.

Handwritten text: 11/11/2015

Weizman petitioned for release of Jewish prisoners

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud) yesterday presented President Ezer Weizman with a petition calling for the release of Jewish prisoners convicted of offenses in revenge of Arab nationalist attacks.

The petition was drawn up in view of the expected release of Arab prisoners, including murderers, and the presidential pardon of women terrorists. It was signed by 16 MKs, all from the coalition, including Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud), Knesset Law Committee Chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Abraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) and Knesset House Committee Chairman Raphael Pinhasi (UTT).

"We want equal sentences for Arab and Jewish criminals. If we could leave them all in prison, I would be in favor of that, but we are not. One can't discriminate between different types of blood when Arabs who spilled a great deal of Jewish blood are being released while Jews who also acted out of nationalist motives will continue to serve their sentences," said Kleiner. He said the release should be conditional on the prisoners expressing regret.

"There is no reason for a terrorist to be released when the person who reacted to his attack with an act of revenge remains in prison," he said.

The petition refers to 19 prisoners, some of whom were minors when they committed the attacks such as those responsible for the attack in the Old City's Butcher's Market. The list includes Ami Popper, the Kahalani brothers and Yoram Skolnick. In some cases, the MKs are not asking for the Jewish prisoners to be released but just that their sentences be commuted and conditions eased.

MK Walid Sadek (Meretz) submitted a different petition to the president, signed by 12 MKs, calling for the release of 53 Israeli Arab security prisoners, saying many were old and sick. "Since we are in a new age of dialogue and sustainable peace between Israel and the Arab states it would be an appropriate gesture to release them," he said.



Federman freed

Former Kach spokesman Noam Federman, placed under administrative detention in November, leaves prison yesterday, where he was met by his wife, Elisheva. Federman, who lives in Hebron, was detained when it first seemed that the Hebron redeployment was imminent. His administrative detention order was originally for two months, and then extended by another two weeks. That period ended yesterday.

(Assaf Shilo/Israel Sim)

Beilin, Eitan final-status paper ready

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Michael Eitan (Likud) hope to present a bipartisan document on permanent arrangements with the Palestinians by next week.

The teams of MKs from both parties finished their joint discussions Tuesday after three months, but Beilin and Eitan expect to meet again to finalize the document. It will be presented to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor leader Shimon Peres.

The Prime Minister Office reiterated yesterday that the talks between Beilin and Eitan are on a personal level, and Eitan does not necessarily represent the government. The statement also said the premier opposes some of the clauses agreed on.

The two main points of dispute remain the nature of the Palestinian entity and the extent of the withdrawal at the third stage of the further redeployments.

Eitan also stressed that the document being drawn up is not the Likud or Labor parties' platforms "but a sort of compromise somewhere in the middle. It is an attempt to find a national consensus before Israel prepares for the talks on the permanent arrangements."

Eitan declined to reveal the details of the document. "I only say that the document for the most part expresses points of agreement, there are disagreements on only two points, the first being: what will be the status of the Palestinian entity - what stand will the government take when it comes to the negotiating, a Palestinian state as Beilin wants or a broad autonomy according to the traditional Likud stand."

Eitan said according to the agreement most Jewish settlements would be annexed to Israel.

On Tuesday night MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud) and Ephraim Sneh (Labor) announced they would no longer take part in the joint forum.

Sneh said the attempt at reaching a broad consensus was positive but the results do not show "true agreement between the Likud and Labor. There is no agreement on the main point of the permanent arrangements, the fact that we are heading toward the separation of two sovereign entities. There's only softer wording over two different conceptions and it's not practical. And that's why I won't sign."

5 Golan Druse arrested for attacks on Israeli targets

By DAVID RUDGE

Police and the General Security Service have arrested five Golan Heights Druse on suspicion of being behind the recent wave of arson attacks in the region, including two incidents in which petrol bombs were thrown at IDF patrols.

The suspects were arrested two weeks ago, but Acre Magistrate's Court had imposed a publicity ban on the case.

The ban was lifted yesterday, when police said the five suspects, two of them juveniles, had confessed to involvement in the nationalist attacks and had retracted the incidents for police video cameras.

Supt. Eliezer Binyamin, police spokesman for the Galilee district, said the five would remain in custody until they were charged and brought to trial before a military court from crimes against the state.

The three adult suspects were

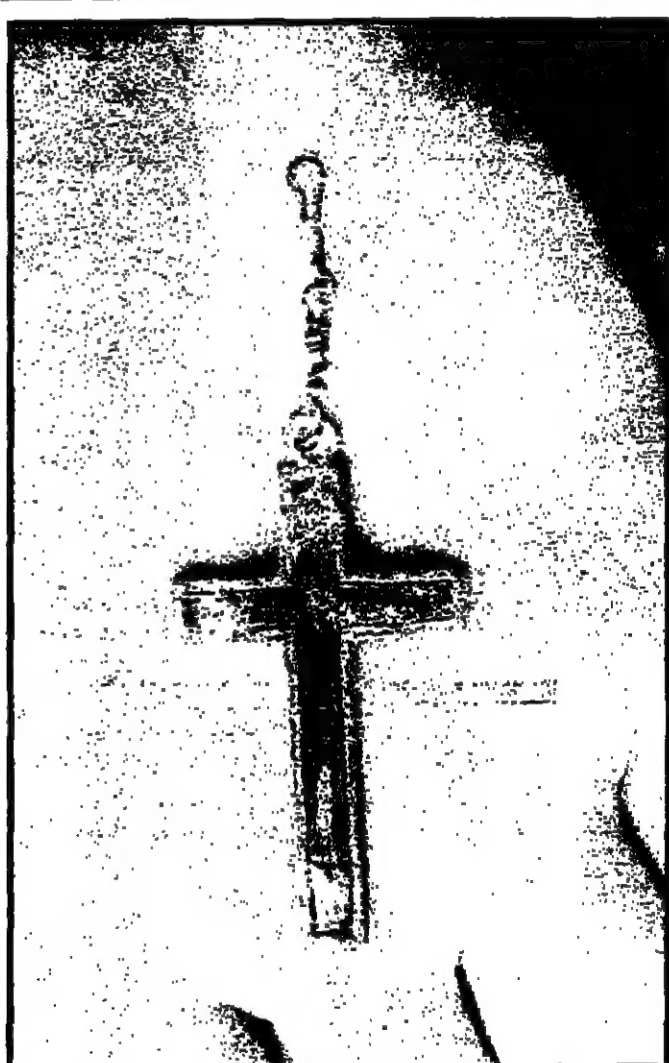
identified as Amal Hamed A'awidat, 20, Yasser Hussein Hanjar, 20, and 19-year-old Naif Rafad Awad. All three, as well as the two juveniles, both aged 15, are residents of Majdal Shams, the biggest Druse village on the Golan Heights.

The wave of arson attacks began last July when the police post in nearby Mas'ada village was set alight and the Israeli flag was removed and replaced by a Syrian flag.

The attacks reached a peak last month when a firebomb was thrown at IDF troops on patrol in a command car along the border with Syria on the outskirts of Majdal Shams. There were no casualties among the soldiers, although their vehicle was burned and badly damaged.

The following week a firebomb was thrown at an IDF jeep traveling through Majdal Shams.

The last incident occurred on January 6.



Fifth-century crucifix found

This rare crucifix from the Byzantine period consisting of wood embedded in a bronze frame was found this week by archeologists outside Jerusalem's Jaffa Gate. The inch-long cross was uncovered in a fifth-century neighborhood built just outside the Old City. Ronnie Reich of the Antiquities Authority said he was unaware of any other crucifix from this period that combined both wood and metal. (Issac Harari)

Kiryat Motzkin workers leaving the Histadrut

By DAVID RUDGE

Nearly all of Kiryat Motzkin's 500 municipal workers have opted to leave the Histadrut and join a new trade union following a lengthy financial dispute with the labor federation.

Orly Goldner, chairman of the works committee which has been leading the fight against the Histadrut, said 90 per cent of the workers had signed forms to join the Amit workers' organization, which is affiliated with Maccabi.

The mother of three, who works in the municipality's education department said the dispute related to recent strikes called by the Histadrut.

"All the workers paid their dues, but when we asked to be guaranteed strike pay for the days when the Histadrut called a strike we did not receive an answer," said Goldner.

She maintained that the Histadrut had sold out to the big works committees, such as the Israel Electric Corporation, and did not treat the smaller groups in

the same way.

"The Histadrut is controlled by the big committees, and does not represent the smaller committees whose workers receive only NIS 2,000 a month compared to those who earn NIS 7,000," said Goldner.

The Histadrut warned the workers they stood to lose their union protection and their rights under collective agreements that were reached via the Histadrut if they went ahead with the move.

From the Histadrut's point of view the Kiryat Motzkin workers broke ranks with the union by refusing to participate in the organized strikes.

The first incident occurred last summer, when the Histadrut called a nationwide one-day strike. It also refused to join in a strike last month called by the Histadrut's Haifa district branch in solidarity with workers at the troubled Haifa Chemicals factory.

The spokesman for the Histadrut's Haifa branch said: "It is a pity if the workers have decided to leave the Histadrut, but that is their prerogative."

Matza rebuffed in bid to gain larger budget

By JUDY SIEGEL

Finance Minister Dan Meridor told Health Minister Yehoshua Matza last night that because of budgetary constraints, financial aid to the health system could be granted "only within the framework of the existing budget."

Any demand for additional fund-

ing would mean the reduction of expenditures of other ministries.

Matza had come to Meridor's Jerusalem office to work out a "comprehensive package deal" that would cut waste and provide additional funding for the deficit-ridden health system. A few days ago, Matza declared that the government hospital's internal-medicine

departments are filled to as much as 180% capacity, forcing patients' discharge within three days and "even endangering lives."

Meridor said at the meeting that ways must be found to increase efficiency in the health funds so that even heavier deficits do not accumulate in the coming years.

Gov't to act against violence by Jaffa teachers

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Increasing violence on the part of Jaffa schoolteachers is worrisome and must be rectified immediately, a committee established by the Education Ministry said yesterday.

The committee, set up following incidents of reported verbal and physical abuse by teachers in the schools, also said that methods of punishment had to be changed.

Parents and pupils told the committee that teacher violence had become a "routine method" of maintaining order in classrooms. The teachers, for their part, complained that the pupils were unruly and had no respect for the teachers.

Jaffa has many families with social problems. Education

Ministry officials said. Recent reports of teachers using corporal punishment convinced ministry officials to take immediate steps.

The committee, formed two months ago, included educators from the Tel Aviv Municipality and the ministry.

The committee recommended that ministry guidelines clearly prohibiting corporal punishment should be distributed to the teachers. The educators were warned of the consequences if they continued these measures and were advised how to deal differently with unruly pupils. The committee also recommended that educational staff be increased and more supervisors be involved. "Burn-out" teachers will be offered early retirement.

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Man in sketch no help in Cosby slay investigation

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The goateed man depicted in a police sketch as another possible witness to the Ennis Cosby slaying was candid and cooperative, police said, but unable to give them any help in finding the killer.

"He did not have any additional information of substance to offer," police Cmdr. Tim McBride said. Meanwhile, CBS reported Tuesday night that it had received a threatening fax, purportedly from the same woman police arrested in New York over the weekend for allegedly trying to extort \$40 million from the victim's father. Authorities said she claimed to be entertainer Bill Cosby's illegitimate daughter.

The elder Cosby has denied being related to the woman, identified as Autumn Jackson. Police say they don't believe the extortion case is connected to the killing.

CBS said the fax it received threatened the network with extortion if a woman identified as Autumn Jackson Cosby "doesn't receive a fair settlement." The network carries the entertainer's show, *Cosby*.

Meanwhile, the man police had hoped might help them solve the murder case was released after being questioned for eight hours. He had been surrounded by officers in a parking lot in suburban Torrance on Monday afternoon because his car was similar to a blue hatchback seen by a security guard near the crime scene.

The man, who was not identified by police, was "candid and cooperative," McBride said. He told police he had gone to the hilltop Mulholland Drive area to look at the city's lights.

Cosby's 27-year-old son had pulled off Interstate 405 near Mulholland Drive to change a flat tire early Thursday when he was shot to death. Police believe robbery was the motive.

A \$12,500 reward for the arrest and conviction of the killer was approved Tuesday by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The *National Enquirer* and *Globe* tabloids earlier posted a total of \$300,000 in rewards.

Across America, the woman allegedly claiming to be the illegitimate daughter of Bill Cosby was ordered held without bail in New York.

Ms. Jackson, 22, of Los Angeles, and Jose Medina, 51, of Bethesda, Ohio, were arrested Saturday in the New York office of a Cosby lawyer, where they allegedly went to discuss a payoff.

'Lord of the Rings' top book for Britons

LONDON (Reuters) — Britons voted J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, a mythological tale of hobbits and elves, as top book of the century, according to a survey. George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and *Animal Farm* were second and third runners-up in the poll of more than 25,000 people asked by booksellers Waterstone's to pick their top books of the last century.

The Jerusalem Post & ZOA House Friday Morning Forum QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



DAVID BAR-ILLAN
Prime Minister's Senior Policy Adviser
TOMORROW, 24th JANUARY 10:30 a.m.
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Admission NIS 10
early booking: ZOA House Tel. 03-6959341
Moderator: Tom O'Dwyer
Foreign Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Albright confirmed

By HILLEL KUTTNER
and news agencies

WASHINGTON — Madeleine Albright and William Cohen were confirmed by the Senate yesterday as secretaries of State and Defense, respectively, by a vote of 99-0. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, did not vote.

Cohen is the only Republican in President Clinton's second-term Cabinet.

Albright replaces Warren Christopher, who left office Monday with the beginning of the Clinton administration's second term. She is expected to take the oath of office and begin work possibly as early as today.

The floor vote followed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's unanimous approval of Albright's nomination two days earlier.

Republicans joined Democrats in lauding Albright's qualifications for the job, although some urged her to consult frequently with Congress on diplomatic matters.

Albright was the first of Clinton's second-term cabinet to pass Senate muster.

In two hours of formal debate, no senator spoke against Albright although several attacked Clinton's foreign policy.

The administration's leading foreign-policy critic, Sen. Jesse Helms, the Republican chairman of the Senate Relations Committee, lavishly endorsed Albright.

"She's a strong lady. She's a courageous lady," Helms said on the Senate floor. But Helms repeated his blanket disagreement with Clinton administration foreign policy, saying he hoped Albright would turn it around.

"My support for the nomination should in no way be misconstrued as an endorsement of the Clinton foreign policy," Helms said, criticizing US actions regarding Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia, China, Iraq and other countries, as well as the administration's support for UN funding.

Helms said he expects Albright to work with the Republican-controlled Congress to limit sending US troops abroad, to reform the UN and to modernize the State Department. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the only female member of Helms' committee, said Albright "holds a unique opportunity to conduct a bipartisan foreign policy."

"As the first woman to serve as secretary of state, Madeleine Albright's nomination will open up



Former American UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright testifies Tuesday during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Capitol Hill. The Senate confirmed Albright as secretary of State yesterday by a vote of 99-0. She is the first US woman secretary of State. (Reuters)

new doors for women — not just in this country but around the world," the California Democrat said.

In Cohen's confirmation hearing earlier yesterday, the moderate

Republican said he will carry on many of Clinton's policies. But he staked out new ground on Bosnia, where he said the United States will limit its commitment,

and also said the United States must modernize its weapons, consider cutting the armed forces' troop levels and turn its attention to Asia.

Greece: Brunner hiding in Syria

ATHENS (AP) — Greece on Tuesday disclosed the whereabouts of Alois Brunner, the world's most wanted Nazi war criminal, but said Athens could not bring him before Greek justice.

"Brunner is in Syria but we can not ask for his extradition because Greece has waived its rights on the prosecution of World War II criminals," government spokesman Dimitris Reppas said.

Reppas explained that Greece had transferred its extradition rights to the former Germany in 1959.

"Still, we would like to see Brunner pay for the gross crimes he committed," Reppas said. Syrian officials denied the 84-

year-old Brunner was in Damascus.

A former senior Nazi SS officer and an elusive fugitive, Brunner reportedly orchestrated the deportation and murder of at least 130,000 Jews from various European countries, including Greece, during World War II.

More than 55,000 Greek Jews, nearly 98 percent of the Jewish population in the northern port city of Salonica, perished in concentration camps.

Reppas's remark came as the Central Israeli Council of Greece, or KIS, prepared to prod the foreign ministry into pushing for Brunner's extradition. Greece maintains close relations with Syria.

"We are renewing our request in hope of convicting the Nazi idea behind Brunner's face," said KIS president Nissim Mais. Israeli Embassy officials said

they were keeping a close watch on the case but refused to elaborate.

Brunner is wanted by Austria, France, Israel, the former Czechoslovakia and Germany, where a \$345,000 reward has been posted for his capture.

All other top Nazis have died or been arrested. Adolf Eichman, Hitler's main henchman for the Final Solution, was executed in Israel in 1962.

FRANCE

Continued from Page 1

the auditors said in a letter to museum authorities, which was leaked to *Le Figaro*.

"The state can never become owner of these artworks," it said at the end of the letter, implying that French museum authorities hoped that if they kept quiet about the issue for long enough, the question of ownership would be forgotten and the works would in effect become state property.

But claims that the French government is attempting to hide these works or claim that it owns them were strongly denied by Marc Finand, First Counsellor at the French Embassy in Tel Aviv.

"There have been no deliberate attempts at a cover-up," he said. "These stolen artworks were in fact exhibited in Compiegne, near Paris, between 1950 and 1954, and in some cases owners claimed them and they were returned."

"A catalog of all this art will be published soon as a book, and an inventory of the stolen art is already on display on the Internet. Claimants are welcome to contact the Foreign Ministry in Paris at 37 Quai D'Orsay, where their claims will be dealt with."

He also revealed that the artworks referred to were only those handed to France in 1949 by West Germany, and other stolen art had continued to be held after this in East Germany.

Prof. Ziva Amishai-Maisels, a professor of art history at the Hebrew University, said "If the accusations are proven true and if the Jewish owners or their heirs cannot be traced, then serious consideration should be given as to whether at least some of the art should be given to Jewish or Israeli museums."

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

Levy also said he wanted talks held "without preconditions."

In response, speaking on Radio Monte Carlo yesterday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara dismissed the idea that talks could be held without preconditions.

Syria's formula for the resumption of talks is having the negotiations pick up "where they left off," including a conditional suggestion by then premier Yitzhak Rabin to Clinton for full a Golan withdrawal and various principles governing security arrangements, stipulated in a "non-paper" drawn up in May 1995.

At Israel's request, Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent Netanyahu a letter a few months ago saying that since the "non-paper" is unsigned, it does not legally obligate Israel.

A senior administration official said yesterday that the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting will have a

BILL

Continued from Page 1

who will also vote, vote Labor. In any case we're talking about an increase of hundreds of thousands of Jewish voters which will ensure that faithful decisions in Israel will be taken by Jewish voters and not minorities."

Shas and National Religious Party MKs present for the vote supported it. Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur (National Religious Party) said: "Israelis who happen to be abroad should have the right to vote for their homeland and state."

But Avraham Stern (NRP), who missed the vote, called on his

party colleagues to act against it, saying it gave "an incentive to those who get out of military reserve duty."

Pini Badash (Tsomet) said, "This decision turns us into the 51st state of the US."

Benny Elon (Mokedet) supported the bill saying: "It increases the ranks of Jewish voters and decreases the power of PLO supporters in determining the future of the state. However, we must ensure there are conditions to fight the phenomenon of emigration."

The bill will be readied for first reading in the Knesset Law Committee, chaired by Shaul Yahalom (NRP).

Yeltsin makes surprise trip to Kremlin

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY

MOSCOW (AP) — An ailing Boris Yeltsin made a surprise trip to the Kremlin yesterday, undermining a Communist bid to oust him because of his poor health.

A few hours later, parliament voted down a long-shot Communist resolution declaring the Yeltsin presidency over. The vote was 102 against, 37 in favor and 5 abstaining.

There were no pictures of Yeltsin at what aides said was a working meeting with the prime minister at the Kremlin. Aides said the 65-year-old leader returned later to his country home, where he is recovering from double pneumonia.

Yeltsin, who underwent heart surgery in November, hasn't been seen in person or in pictures since he got sick on January 6.

A leading Russian doctor criticized Yeltsin for making the trip, which was clearly timed to stymie the vote in parliament.

Dr. Andrei Vorobyov, a member of Yeltsin's medical team, said the president was "once again too quick to return to work." Vorobyov also said Yeltsin had returned to the Kremlin too soon after his November 5 bypass operation.

Yeltsin came down with pneumonia just two weeks after returning from his months-long recuperation from surgery.

But Yeltsin's trip took the steam out of a Communist resolution declaring the "president's powers terminated" because of health. The resolution, which legal experts said was clearly unconstitutional, also put the prime minis-

ter in charge and called for new presidential elections.

Yeltsin was re-elected this summer but has been ill almost continuously since then.

The measure's sponsor, Communist legislator Viktor Ilyukhin, vowed to continue his battle and claimed that procedural errors marred the vote in the Duma, or lower house.

"Yeltsin's presidency turned out to be a heavy burden that causes social upheavals in Russia," Ilyukhin said while opening yesterday's debate.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, Yeltsin's most serious rival in the summer election, challenged the president to show up at the Duma.

The resolution garnered scant support. Members of the pro-government Our Home is Russia walked out in protest. Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko party, said Yeltsin's visit to the Kremlin yesterday made the resolution moot.

When Yeltsin left the hospital Monday night after a 12-day stay, his spokesman said he wasn't going back to work at the Kremlin any time soon.

The Communists took a chance by presenting their resolution. The constitution gives Yeltsin the right to disband the Duma if he doesn't like what it does.

"I'm asking the deputies to think of the consequences of passing this resolution," Yeltsin's personal representative in the Duma, Alexander Kotenkov, warned.

But if the resolution had passed, it would have been a major embarrassment for Yeltsin that might have eroded his authority.

Terrorists fire shots in Peru siege

LIMA (Reuters) — Marxist rebels holding 73 hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima fired several warning shots into the air yesterday as police stepped up a tense war of nerves at the besieged house, witnesses said.

Following unusual movements by their special forces units in front of the compound on Tuesday, police sent a helicopter flying overhead and moved in black armored personnel carriers with heavy machine guns to within two blocks.

There was no immediate response by the rebels, although during the night they unfurled a new banner on the roof of the residence pledging not to give up. "Surrender is not the path for Tupac Amaru followers," it read.

16 Ethiopian soccer players seek asylum in Italy

ROME (Reuters) — Sixteen members of Ethiopia's national soccer squad sought political asylum in Italy yesterday, leaving their country without a proper team after slipping their escort during a stopover on the way to a match.

The 15 players and their coach had been missing for more than 24 hours since disappearing from a hotel near Rome airport where they had been staying while on their way to Casablanca for an

African Nations' Cup match against Morocco.

"We decided to ask for political asylum a long time ago but this was the first time we had an opportunity," one of the players, who gave his name as Yimam Mohammed, told reporters at Rome police headquarters.

Mohammed, acting as spokesman for the group, said an official team escort had always held on to players' passports during previous trips abroad.

Presley manager Col. Parker dies at 87

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Col. Tom Parker, the onetime carnival barker who helped guide Elvis Presley to stardom, died Tuesday of complications from a stroke. He was 87.

Parker, a round, rough-around-the-edges figure with a fondness for Cuban cigars, became Presley's manager in 1955 as the young Memphis truck driver was on the verge of becoming a rock 'n' roll sensation, and stayed in the job until the death of The King in 1977. After that, Parker all but retired.

Thomas Andrew Parker was credited with getting Presley a \$35,000 recording contract with RCA Victor in the mid-1950s, when Sam Phillips of Sun Records in Memphis decided to sell the contract.

He also arranged Presley's early television appearances, including three on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1956 and 1957 that helped catapult the young Presley to stardom. He exercised firm control over Presley, who affectionately called

Parker "admiral." The "colonel" was an honorary title bestowed on Parker in 1948 by Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana.

Parker took 25 to 50 percent of Presley's earnings — figures that some in the Presley circle considered too high. He defended his take, saying: "I sleep very good at night. When they've done all they can with him, then they start picking on me."

Parker was a mysterious figure who preferred to stay out of the public eye. Even his birthplace was in dispute: He said West Virginia, most reference books said Breda, Netherlands.

His wife, Loanne, and long-time friend Bruce Banke said he came to the US and served in the Army before becoming a carnival pitchman. He founded the Great Parker-Pony Circus, and Colonel Tom Parker and His Dancing Chickens, an act in which he placed live chickens on a hot plate covered with sawdust. The chickens "danced" to the music.

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FLAIR

An appealing mix

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Take some relatively recent retro — say the early '60s. Some "romantic" period inspiration derived from the likes of Jane Austen, a little rustic comfort, a liberal dose of puritanism, a flash of bright Asian ethnicity plus a dash of drama, and what you have is Gershon Bram's fall/winter collection for 1997/98.

What is interesting is that Bram chose to "show" cold-weather clothes at a time when most other designers are getting ready for spring. Still, with the strange shenanigans of climate, Bram may find himself transferring the garments from runway to rack somewhat earlier than he initially planned.

Partially tongue-in-cheek in concept, the collection is Bram's delightful birthday gift to himself in celebration of his 50th winter. Thus, even if retro wasn't in vogue, he would have found some way of incorporating past successes into his new lines.

Bram, who has spent all his adult life in fashion, first came to public attention with ethnically inspired, wonderfully draped garments which covered nearly everything but the face and hands. He's still exciting the imagination by covering the entire body, but most of the drape in the current collection is in the huge turtle-neck collars, which are the focal points of knits, casualwear, streetwear and formalwear for both males and females.

His female silhouettes tend to be slender without any sense of constriction. There's a little more leeway in his menswear, with countrified three-piece suits in dark bark and deep moss colors exuding a genteel, old-world ambience. Bram teams these suits with brightly colored shirts, which are somehow reminiscent of a flower growing out of a tree trunk. Also in the menswear lines are fabulous, mainly charcoal-gray twin-sets — loose sweaters topped by long cardigan jackets and worn with self-color pants.

Even more striking are the long tent-like coats worn over matching suits and color-contrast shirts. But the most eye-catching group of all in the menswear range is the unisex clothing, in which there are dresses, skirts and mandarin tops. Elton John would have a field day!

Bram's female "finery" was so minimalist that most of the dresses were cut without waistlines. Occasionally there was an



Most of the drape in the current Gershon Bram collection is in the huge turtle-neck collars.

empire-line dress, but only to relieve the eye. Maxis dominated the collection, while shorter high-necked long-sleeved dresses also doubled as tunics when paired with matching pants.

Keenly aware that both men and women are finicky about the lengths of their coats and jackets, especially in ensemble dressing, Bram's options ran the gamut from hip to ankle, and were highly effective in cream-colored pants suits.

Eveningwear hovered somewhere between teasing and theatrical with see-through gowns worn with matching shorts; wash-waisted full-skirted, black water-silk frock coats and magnificent black sheaths with high funnel necklines.

The constant ripples of applause from the huge crowd gathered inside Hangar 11 in the Tel Aviv Port said it all. There was something for everyone, and they loved it. So did I.

'Boulangerie' is redefined in the battle of the baguette

Stacks of fresh baguettes, the pungent scent of yeast. It looks like a "boulangerie." It certainly smells like a "boulangerie." But, as of January 1, not every French bread shop can call itself a bakery.

To qualify legally as a "boulangerie," a bread shop must now select its own flour, knead its own dough and bake its loaves on the premises.

Worried that artisan bakers can no longer compete against outlets selling mass-produced baguettes, the French government has regulated a word to defend a tradition. Authorities say up to 5,000 bread businesses must change their signs to let customers know how and where their daily bread is baked. Under the law, bakers must also be state-certified.

The new regulations are geared toward fighting "predatory" pricing that could mean the end of the old-time baker, said Small Business Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin. A mass-produced supermarket baguette is cheaper than one made the old-fashioned way, at traditional, marble-walled, city-center outlets.

"To me there's no question which [baguette] is better," said Anna Marques, who buys bread at both places. "The cheaper baguette is OK if you eat it when it's hot, just out of the oven. But it doesn't last and it doesn't freeze well."

Since the government announced the new law, 30 businesses have been warned. Culprits won't be fined, but police could force them to change their signs, Raffarin's office said.

(AP)

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Though the law may fail the consumer can prevail

By RUTHIE BLUM

Several months ago, this column dealt with the exploitation of children in advertising. Often used to promote products or targeted for campaigns aimed at parents, children provide marketers with endless sales potential — perhaps even better than scantily-clad, well-endowed women with long legs and lusty looks.

In spite of the 1991 ratification of a series of amendments to the Consumer Protection Law specifically related to the exploitation of minors in advertising, such "pedophile" product peddling is on a steady rise. As a result, a special center to monitor violations and examine complaints on the part of concerned consumers was established by the Trade Ministry. (Judging by the endless violations we witness on a daily basis, this center has its work cut out for it — or else it's just another government set-up funded by our taxes.)

But, where the law often fails, the consumer prevails. Even if the consumer is nine years old.

Extremely offended by a Dial Soap commercial portraying children as germ-infested ("If you've got children, you've got germs"), Shahaf Zilberman complained to the National Council for the Child. Her letter was then forwarded to Channel 2, the station on which the ad had been airing. The end result — thanks to the diligence of this young individual — was a decision on the part of the soap advertisers to revise their copy.

Yoel Rekem, ombudsman of The Second Television and Radio Authority (Channel 2) explained that the advertising committee of the Authority examines the texts of all commercials prior to airing. "But the committee mainly exam-

ines whether a given ad contains material which violates the law," he said. "And it was the commit-

tee who had okayed the Dial Soap commercial text, maybe because it is the same text used in the US."



With the increased use of children in advertising, as seen in the Blue Square Co-op (above) and Benetton ads, a special center to monitor violations and examine complaints covering this area has been established by the Industry and Trade Ministry. (Koby Kantor; Reuters)

When I asked why a sponsor would risk losing potential customers even if permission is granted by the advertising committee, Rekem said it all boils down to the exorbitant cost of producing even a short commercial: between \$20,000 and \$25,000 for 20 seconds! "Imagine how much money a sponsor loses by having to go back to the drawing-board," he said sympathetically.

Nevertheless, the claim that an ad appeared in a certain way in the US carried no weight with Rekem. "Every country has its own culture," he said, "and its own standards of what is offensive."

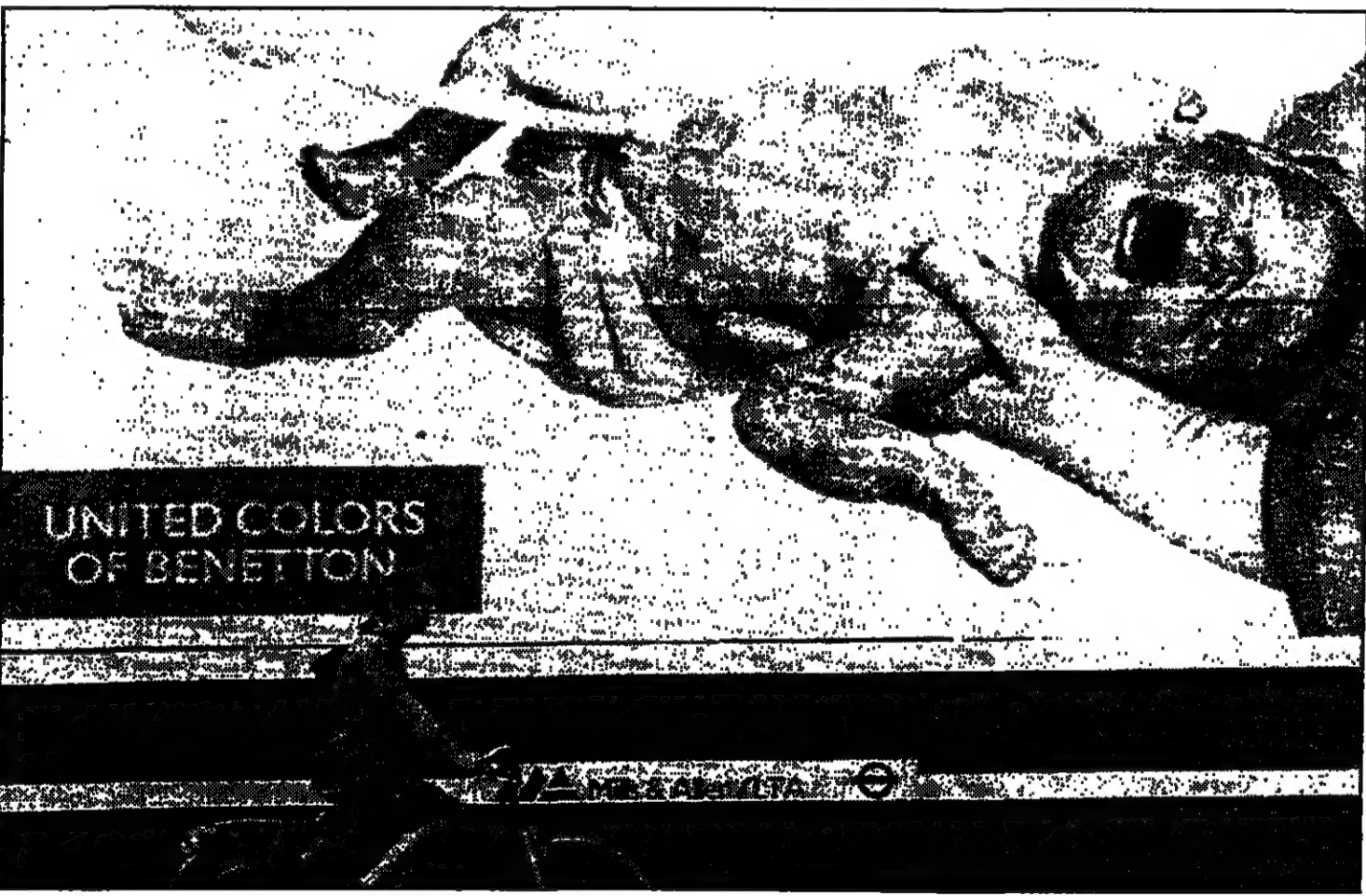
This is true not only with regard to children, but to the entire consumer population. But we have to know where to address our complaints, and get serious about boycotting products which are plugged in an offensive manner.

To complain about violations the exploitation of minors in advertising, phone: (03) 560-4611, or write to: Zamir Chayot, 76 Rehov Mazeh, Tel Aviv.

To complain about offensive TV and/or radio commercials (broadcast on Channel 2 or related radio stations), contact the ombudsman's office of The Second Television and Radio Authority, 5 Rehov Kanfei Nesharim, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem 95464; Tel: (02) 655-6228; Fax: (02) 655-6287.

To complain about offensive ads on Israel TV (Channel 1), or Kol Yisrael: contact IBA spokesman Zvi Lidar, 97 Jaffa Road, Jerusalem 91280; Tel: (02) 623-5699; Fax: (02) 629-1862.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



BARGAIN BASEMENT

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ELECTRIC HEATER — NIS 175; 200, heat, NIS 50. 02-561-7986.
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"NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS" — NIS 3 each; women's brown suede 3/4 length coat, medium, NIS 150; women's ice skates, 7 1/2, NIS 75. 02-556-5515, NS.
BROTHER SEWING MACHINE — works but needs professional oiling, does reverse and zigzag, NIS 25; Underwood manual typewriter, NIS 25. 02-651-8459.
SEPTUAGINT — in Greek, Vol. I only, NIS 100; Kipling's The Day's Work, stories, half-leather bound, 1898, NIS 40 o.b.o. 02-675-1515, NS.
BED LINEN FOR DOUBLE BED — full set, hardly used, NIS 300. 02-532-4637, NS.
WOMEN'S SUIT — new, from England, size 12 (38), NIS 350. 02-641-6456, NS.
KEROSENE HEATER — Kero-Sun, 3000 kcal/hr, NIS 300. 02-532-2207.
MACLAREN STROLLER — excellent condition, NIS 150. 02-571-7932.
WINDOWS '95 CD — Hebrew edition, new in box, NIS 350. 02-583-0608, NS.
8 VIDEOS — comedy (e.g., Robin Williams), and National Geographic series, NIS 25 each. 02-561-1976.
VACUUM CLEANER — excellent condition, NIS 250. 02-676-6036.
TELEPHONE — ANSWERING MACHINE — Cobra, good condition, NIS 200 o.b.o. w. 02-675-9333; h. 02-561-1883.
DOWN SNOWSUIT — new, pretty, pink, from Bloomingdale's (Brambilla brand), converts to newborn sack, size 6 months, NIS 140. 02-642-1981, NS.
GAS HEATER — Electra, Super 3400s,

needs minor repair, NIS 80; electric radiator heater, Philips, NIS 120; men's leather coat, NIS 150. 02-561-0746.
2 DUMBBELLS — 40 kilo weights, NIS 200, heat, NIS 50. 02-561-7986.
CREDIT — VOUCHER — for clothing/shoe store in Bell Center "Comme Ca Des Halles" NIS 199 value. For NIS 179. 02-678-4036.
WOMEN'S DOWN COAT — 10/12. NIS 120 o.b.o.; Maglie flashlight set, batteries, NIS 75. 02-993-2126.
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GAS HEATER — Electra, Super 3400s,

high chair, bath with stand, crib sheeting, party accessories, etc., all for NIS 350. 02-586-6194, NS.
SWIVEL CHAIR — NIS 150; "Freeda" vitamins, NIS 18 to NIS 35. 02-651-3741.
HEBREW ENCYCLOPEDIA — old oil painting, antiquities, 02-651-3741, NS.
COLOR TELEVISION AND STEREO — for home for the chronically ill, good condition, 02-531-5674.
SOMEONE TO TEACH PALMISTRY — or phytionomics in English, Spanish or German, 02-676-5218.
SLEEPING BAGS — for camping, in good condition, 02-673-1285, NS.
TREADMILL — to share its use, will contribute to purchase and maintenance, in Rehavia. 02-563-5703, NS.
COUCH — Lazy Boy, 2-drawer file cabinet, bicycle for 9-year-old, all in good condition. 02-643-6574.
THE CANCER MAN — destroyed my tape of the X-Files season-ending and season-opening episodes. If a tape is out there, please call: 02-586-6080 (NS).
2 MEN'S SWEATERS — new, Canadian-made, NIS 75 each; insulated lunch bag, new, NIS 15; toddler tricycle, new in box, NIS 100; boys' black leather shoes, new, NIS 50. 02-651-1763, NS.
AIWA WALKMAN — new, stereo recording, auto reverse, direction changer, pause, continuous/stop play, speaker, super bass, NIS 350. 02-651-8416.
4 CLASSICAL BETA VIDEO CASSETTES — "3 Temons," Bernstein, etc., NIS 120; Concentra organizing system, NIS 120. 02-625-4494.
SOFIA BED — NIS 300. 02-567-0899, NS.

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WAFFLE IRON — 220 V., Tel Aviv area. 03-548-3661.
TABLE, CHAIR — and other furniture in good condition, for Russian olim. Will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama. 04-838-2219.
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OFFICE FURNITURE — used, good condition, for AACI National Office. Carole. 02-566-1181.
USED GUITAR — good condition. 02-671-4007.

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HEBREW ENCYCLOPEDIA — old oil painting, antiquities, 02-651-3741, NS.
COLOR TELEVISION AND STEREO — for home for the chronically ill, good condition, 02-531-5674.
SOMEONE TO TEACH PALMISTRY — or phytionomics in English, Spanish or German, 02-676-5218.
SLEEPING BAGS — for camping, in good condition, 02-673-1285, NS.
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SOFIA BED — NIS 300. 02-567-0899, NS.

carpets, and other furniture as donation to Jerusalem Heder Yeshiva, will pick up. Chaim. 02-628-4155/66, NS.
FAX MACHINE — for new immigrant starting new business. 02-566-2256, NS.
DINING-ROOM SET — antique or classic style, large table on a pedestal, 6 or more chairs, plus any matching pieces (breakfront, tea-table, etc.). 02-651-9225, early morning or after 11 p.m., NS.
STOREROOM FOR OLIM — seeks electrical appliances, household goods (pots, pans, dishes, etc.), old furniture, etc. Sun. - Thurs., 10 am - 4 pm; Fri. 10 am - 1 pm, 24 Ha'uman St., Talpiot, 02-679-6848.
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SMALL CAT — 4 months old. 02-568-5256.
FLUFFY, LONG-HAIRED PUPPIES — small breed, healthy, good-natured, free to good home. 02-643-0892.
FOUND: CAT — one year old, gray, in Balfour St., Jerusalem. 02-568-525.
FEMALE DOG — 6 months old, vaccinated, house-trained, well-behaved, likes children. David. 02-641-4847.
BLACK CAT — cute, 2 months old, looking for family. 02-651-3396.

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Ads must be addressed to:
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and must reach us by noon Thursday of the week preceding publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.
The price of each item must be stated.

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Plant a tree

Tu Bishvat, the Jewish Arbor Day, which is being celebrated today, has traditionally been a day for planting trees in Israel. Decades ago, the Zionist movement adopted Tu Bishvat as part of its effort to reclaim the land, and Jewish children throughout the world were encouraged to donate to the Jewish National Fund for the sake of having a tree planted in Israel. Every tree planted was another step in strengthening the Jewish connection to the land. As times have changed, so has the view of Tu Bishvat. Today it has been adopted by the environmentalist and conservationist movements. We are told to plant a tree in order to fight air pollution and expand our natural habitat. The connection with the ancient traditions of Tu Bishvat rings true for many people because of a widely held idyllic view regarding the benevolent connection with the land that our forefathers had in comparison with our modern, environmentally destructive technologies.

More often than not, however, serious historical scholarship reveals that in ancient times environmental consciousness was unknown, and many of the agricultural practices of our forefathers were unkind to the environment.

In fact, environmentalism and conservationism are very recent inventions, and for good reason. Environmentalism carries an economic price. That is why major environmental movements exist only in the wealthiest of countries. Poor nations are simply too busy ensuring the basic subsistence of their populations to worry about trees.

Israel's recent economic advances have brought with them an increased concern for the environment. Some may object to the portrayal of environmental and conservationist concerns as economic commodities. But the hard-headed recognition of these concerns as economically related is the most positive approach to dealing with environmental issues. Environmentalists should adopt a less moralistic attitude and consider the costs of some of their proposals, especially when others are asked to shoulder the costs and when they might impinge on further economic growth. At the same time, free market supporters must admit that there are instances in which the market can fail and some form of government intervention is unavoidable.

Environmental problems occur when economic

activities produce unwanted phenomena such as waste, pollution or congestion, or destroy natural scenery or resources, without the negative effects directly affecting the people involved in those activities. The much-vaunted market system then fails. Governmental remedies, such as legislation forbidding certain activities and regulating or taxing and fining others, aim to raise the costs of these activities so that they are no longer worthwhile. But the extra costs are then passed on, either to consumers or to the employees of enterprises that are forced to scale back. There is nothing wrong with society deciding that environmentalism is worth the costs, as long as those costs are recognized for what they are, and as long as we are aware of who among us will bear the brunt of them.

Israel's high tariffs on automobiles are sometimes justified as an effective tool for preventing an over-proliferation of cars, but they also perpetuate gaps between the haves and the have-nots. Calls for limiting the construction of new buildings in certain areas for the sake of conservation may be supported by those who already own a home, but young families seeking homes rightfully feel slighted. Those living near airports are right to demand that runways not be expanded, but the tourism industry is a major source of livelihood for many citizens, and limiting airport size means limiting tourism.

The proposed Trans-Israel Highway is another case in point. Opponents of the highway fear that it will destroy natural habitats and reduce our quality of life. On the other hand, without more highway construction traffic jams will only become more unbearable, and that too will reduce our quality of life. The only solutions to these issues will be found in cooperative efforts by all concerned parties to construct well-built highways while minimizing environmental destruction, and to erect a smooth-running and efficient railroad system that will attract riders.

Nobody wants to live in a country which is a continuous ribbon of cement and has air we can't breathe. But a land which is so heavily forested and conserved that a home can't be purchased at a decent price and transportation is a nightmare is not very appealing either. As we plant a tree this Tu Bishvat, we need find ways of ensuring that Israel remains a land where trees and people can co-exist.



Next in line to go

Ask not for whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee. — John Donne

That ominous bell, first heard in Hebron, should have made every pioneer in the Golan's 33 settlements, Labor stalwarts to the core, jump in alarm this past week.

The very name "Hebron" seems to stultify left-wingers' senses. Countless times recently we have heard otherwise intelligent individuals declaring to the media that we "cannot be bound" by the "superstition" or "mythology" of the religious fanatics who oppose Netanyahu's handling over the keys of Hebron to Yasser Arafat in the interests of peace.

Yehuda Harel, the Third Way's founding father, went so far as to travel to Gaza to urge Arafat to accept the agreement Netanyahu was so anxious to press upon the PLO chief.

His party colleague, government minister, Avigdor Kahalani, the tank commander hero who saved the Golan from the Syrians in 1973, also accepted the Hebron surrender without a whimper of protest.

Let's take a look at the mythological, superstitious nature of those Hebron fanatics.

On the first page of his magnificent *History of the Jews* British historian Paul Johnson writes: "The Jews are the most tenacious people in history. Hebron is there to prove it. This is where the 4,000-year history of the Jews, insofar as it can be anchored in time and place, begins."

Johnson adds that the biblical passage relating that Abraham paid 400 shekels of silver for the Machpelah Cave is one of the "most important in the entire Bible... one of the most ancient and tenaciously-held Jewish traditions."

Okay, so Paul Johnson isn't Jewish. He doesn't know that the average Israeli has never visited Hebron, and doesn't give a fig about where the tombs of our patriarchs and matriarchs are located.

Then what about that bastion of the left, David Ben-Gurion? He declared in 1970, "It would be a great and terrible error for us not to settle Hebron, the neighbor and ancestor of Jerusalem, with a large and ever-increasing Jewish population, within a very short time. Hebron is worthy of being a sister to Jerusalem."

Dr. Gavriel Gal from Rehovot wrote a letter to this newspaper late last year asking, "Did Ben-

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

Gurion foresaw the madness that has overcome us in these modern times, that is causing us to give Hebron, the city of our nation's forefathers, to another people who are praying for our destruction?

There are clear signs that the Golan is being readied for sacrifice on the altar of peace in our time, at all costs

What would B-G say if he saw us now?

THE writers of this column were among the 250,000 people who put up with the dust and heat of Golan in October 1994 to cheer on the Golan citizens who were on hunger strike. They were protesting the Rabin-Peres plan to hand over the entire Golan, all the way down to the shores of the Kinneret, in exchange for a peace arrangement with Syria's Hafez Assad.

The Labor government denied these claims of total surrender. But as Warren Christopher revealed in a recently-leaked letter, it is precisely what Rabin and Peres agreed to at the time. Christopher did add that the letter wasn't legally binding on Israel — but Assad has made it clear that, for him, it is the base on which everything else rests.

During the Golan citizens' protest, Dr. Shimon Peres saw the Kinneret shoreline as best protected by rows of tourist hotels, not a lot of nonsense about Jewish tradition and Zionism.

Just in case one is led to believe that Netanyahu's Golan promises mean anything, there was the cold touch of realpolitik in this statement by the Prime Minister's Office: "In any future negotiations, both sides should be free to raise their claims, including territorial claims...."

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on*

may have to risk their lives when Israel is forced to reconquer the Golan."

Wake up, Messrs. Kahalani and Harel, and Shenk, protester in the ruins of Gama, the site where thousands of Jews perished as they fought for their liberty and faith at the hands of the Romans.

And wake up, Minister Nathan Sharansky, Zionism is part of Israel Ba'Aliyah's credo. Don't Hebron and 90 percent of the Jewish areas of Judea and Samaria belong to the Zionist dream?

There are clear signs that the Golan is being readied for sacrifice on the altar of peace in our time, and at all costs.

True, earlier this week Netanyahu declared boldly to the French newspaper, *Le Figaro*: "The Golan Heights must remain in Israel's hands because of their strategic, historic and economic importance. The future of the area is absolutely not negotiable." Three cheers for the 33 settlements there — and for the Golan's delectable wine!

But we have become all too familiar with the technique of our recent prime ministers.

Hardly had the ink dried on *Le Figaro's* presses when Fox TV in Washington was being given a different "diplomatic" message. Asked if a time would ever come when he would be willing to surrender the Golan, Netanyahu "softened his stand," as *The Jerusalem Post's* headline had it.

"The Golan is a very important piece of real estate for us...," Netanyahu was quoted as saying, "so obviously we will present our views in the negotiations, and the Syrians will present their views."

Like Netanyahu and his "real estate," Yitzhak Rabin also did not think much of Golan "mythology" and its place in Jewish history. To him the Heights were merely "bank country."

And Shimon Peres saw the Kinneret shoreline as best protected by rows of tourist hotels, not a lot of nonsense about Jewish tradition and Zionism.

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POSTSCRIPT

THE ORGANIZERS of a Spanish film festival said a brief 1947 porn film purported to feature a young Marilyn Monroe was authentic, but the actress' estate maintained it was a fake.

The grainy, six-minute black-and-white film showing a bare-breasted blonde engaging in explicit sex acts provoked a flurry of interest among collectors and a storm of protest from the Hollywood legend's estate.

Promoter Mikel Barsa said the film's authenticity had been verified by various experts. He said he was convinced it was a rare, if so-called, image of the 21-year-old Monroe when she was still the little known Norma Jean Baker.

"Several American experts in physiognomy (face recognition) have certified it as authentic," Barsa said. "It's her."

Monroe, if it is indeed her, looks chubbier and lacks the plastic surgery that helped make her into a 1950s sex symbol.

Barsa's company had doubts about the veracity of the film when first contacted by the anonymous collector who had purchased it for a few dollars at a Paris flea market in 1977.

But Barsa thoroughly tested the film and had certificates proving its authenticity.

Barak's team

AMOTZ ASA-EL

While a flabbergasted Israel this week contemplated the astronomical wages enjoyed by thousands of senior employees across the public sector, two men remained conspicuously silent: Labor heir-apparent Ehud Barak and his self-appointed shadow finance minister, Avraham Shohat.

In Barak's case, this silence reflects the apparent lack of any domestic agenda, let alone message.

As for Shohat, the former finance minister knows he is better off saying nothing about the grave situation with which he, more than anyone else, ought to be associated.

It was Shohat who, during four years at Israel's fiscal helm, flung open the budgetary flood gates by sanctioning steep salary hikes for schoolteachers, university professors, hospital doctors, municipal employees and thousands of other non-privately employed workers.

By the end of his term in office, the \$200-million current-account surplus Shohat had inherited from his predecessors had been transformed into a \$4.8 billion deficit. The public sector had expanded by 17 percent, and its salaries had ballooned by 20 percent. Private-sector wages had actually shrunk, in real terms, by 6.5 percent.

When he finally had one worthwhile cause, the capital-gains tax, Shohat ultimately failed to make the political system follow his lead, largely because it didn't occur to him that the controversial move should be made part of a comprehensive tax-cut plan.

On top of that, the treasurer who repeatedly failed to balance his own books consistently bickered with the Bank of Israel over its responsible high interest rate policy, which was a direct result of Shohat's own fiscal extravagance.

Barak's tendency, so far, to

His shadow finance minister should be the man who is his main rival

focus on defense issues and foreign affairs while shunning the domestic arena, is dangerous enough in itself. Abandoning his economic flank to Shohat's devices could be fatal for Barak politically, and for the rest of us economically.

ONE LESSON Barak can already draw from Netanyahu's early months in office is that winning an election isn't the whole story, merely its beginning.

To avoid the repeated failures that stemmed from Netanyahu's glaring lack of contingency plans, Barak must soon assemble a team of high-caliber colleagues, commit himself to them publicly, and chart with them a detailed game-plan to be implemented immediately they get their turn at the country's helm, should they win that turn.

A central figure in this team would be the shadow finance minister. And that post should by no means go to Shohat, but to Barak's main rival, Yossi Beilin.

Beilin, urbane, bookish and bespectacled, a former diplomat and university teacher, and Barak, the ever-sober, lifelong soldier, can get along together — especially when one considers the far more problematic precedents of the Rabin-Peres and Netanyahu-Levy duos.

Beilin would surely expect to land the foreign ministry; and that is also what most pundits would expect. Yet if Barak allowed it he would risk enhancing, rather than undoing, Labor's overly dovish image.

It would be wiser on Barak's part — and far more beneficial for the country — to exploit Beilin's much less controversial experience as a free-marketeering deputy finance minister and minister of economics.

Beilin, unlike Shohat, openly supported Bank of Israel governor Jacob Frenkel's anti-inflationary monetary policy, and realized the urgency of demonopolizing, deregulating and privatizing the activities of assorted dinosaurs from Egged to the Electric Corporation. He also devised a detailed plan for deep budget cuts which would have included the downsizing, merging, and abolition of entire government functions.

Beilin seemingly possesses at least some of the economic vision Shohat clearly lacked. With Beilin guarding his domestic flank, Barak could confidently focus on issues closer to his heart.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Sir, — Who is denying whom freedom of speech? Several weeks ago, Abraham Foxman and more recently Neal Sher wrote op-ed articles in *The Jerusalem Post* castigating Morton Klein for taking the position that it was inappropriate for the ADL to invite Thomas Friedman to be the keynote speaker at an ADL dinner. These articles have transformed the debate from whether it was appropriate for the ADL to invite Thomas Friedman to be its keynote speaker to whether it was permissible for Morton Klein to criticize the invitation.

As someone who has often admired Abraham Foxman's cogent letters and statements on Jewish matters and taken great pride in Neal Sher's prosecution of Nazis when he was in the Justice Department, I am perplexed and saddened by what they have written on this matter.

In his article, Foxman referred to the "ZOA opinion police" and argued that "in its opposition to Friedman," the ZOA is "trying to prevent us from hearing a legitimate opinion." Sher's article characterizes Klein's action as "unacceptable bully tactics." He would apparently

have no objection to Klein's letter protesting the ADL's selection of Thomas Friedman as its keynote speaker, "if the matter remained a private disagreement between two national Jewish organizations which in essence reflected the divisions within the community on the path of the peace process." His complaint is that Klein sent copies of his letter to a number of prominent people in the Jewish community and as a result, "the ADL was hit with letters of protest and the story was widely covered in the Jewish press."

But, surely, that is the very essence and purpose of free speech. The right to free speech means that the ADL has a right to invite Thomas Friedman, or anyone else it chooses, to be its keynote speaker, if it thinks it appropriate to do so. The right to free speech also means that Morton Klein has a right to protest that invitation, if he considers it inappropriate, and to let others know so that they may protest if they are persuaded that it is inappropriate. There is nothing unusual in what Morton Klein did. Many organizations and individuals, Jewish and non-Jewish (including Abe Foxman, I believe), have protested

in the past when an organization gave a platform to someone whose views were at odds with the stated aims of that organization.

Nor can it be suggested that the failure to invite Friedman would infringe his right to free speech. As a columnist for *The New York Times*, he is in a position to exercise that right far more than most people. The only one whose freedom of speech may be infringed by all this is Morton Klein, if he is intimidated by the *ad hominem* attacks against him from protesting in the future when he thinks it appropriate to do so.

With respect to the appropriateness of the invitation, personally I was amazed that the ADL, an organization whose work I had long respected and that I considered supportive of Israel, would invite Thomas Friedman, who has almost always been very negative on Israel, to be its keynote speaker. Morton Klein should be commended, not condemned, for having raised the issue.

MALVINA HALBERSTAM,
Professor of Law,
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law,
Yeshiva University

New York.

POLITICAL NEGLIGENCE

Sir, — Bruce Maddy-Weitzman's arguments for continuing the peace process ("Mess of misconceptions," January 14) are so vacuous that considering his position, he should be sued for political negligence.

His dismissal of the threat of Islamic fundamentalism to regional stability, when he states that "no Arab regime is in danger of being swept away by an Islamic tide," is utter nonsense. Only three years ago, the CIA stated its concerns that Egypt may succumb to the fundamentalists. During the last decade, the fundamentalists have made gains in Algeria, Sudan, Turkey, Jordan, and even among the Palestinians. Indeed, even Peres and Rabin justified the peace process in that it would allow Israel to join the status-quo Arab states against the spread of fundamentalism. Consequently, whether fundamentalism will take over the region is open to speculation. However, the prospect of it happening is far greater than the chances of democracy flourishing in the region.

Equally shallow is Maddy-Weitzman's contention that an Arab-Israeli settlement is a prerequisite for

the Arabs to develop closer political and economic ties to the West. The Persian Gulf war removed many of the political obstacles restricting ties between the regional states and the West. Today, the West is drooping over the prospect of selling its most sought-after commodity, weapons, to the oil-rich Gulf states.

Specifically, the peace process has allowed the US to supply over \$14 billion of advance weaponry to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kuwait between the years 1992 and 1994.

The empirical evidence does not support Maddy-Weitzman's claim that the Arabs will use their closer ties to the West to address their domestic problems. A case in point is Egypt. Despite over a decade of "close" relations with the West, Egypt has not exploited its peace dividend to raise the per-capita GNP (\$684 in 1994) of its citizens. Instead, Egypt used its ties to embark on an enormous military build-up. According to the US Arms Control Defense Agency, Egypt is the second largest importer of weapons in the world, behind only Saudi Arabia. Given the fact that Egypt is bordered in Africa by two

relatively weak countries, Libya and Sudan, there is little doubt that Israel is the target of this arms build-up.

Maddy-Weitzman is correct in stating that the Golan provides no protection from missiles. However, the presence of Israeli forces just 67 km. from Damascus may deter Damascus from launching those missiles.

Finally, Maddy-Weitzman makes a fundamental error by focusing on the theoretical benefits of achieving "real" peace without considering the feasibility of such an occurrence happening. Again, we have the empirical case of Egypt. A 1995 Egyptian public-opinion poll showed 98 percent of Egyptians opposed full normalization of relations with Israel; 97 percent opposed cultural ties; 96 percent opposed economic ties; and 92 percent opposed tourist ties.

Maddy-Weitzman exemplifies the problem that many of the supporters of the peace process experience. That is, they fool themselves into thinking that the region is what they wish it would be, rather than what it is.

SHAWN M. PINE

Beit Yitzhak.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Two-day-old Rosza is nuzzled by her mother at the Milwaukee zoo. The little 'un was born a shade under two meters tall.

(AP)

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DEAR RUTHIE

A real live father doesn't always make a good one

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, My father died when I was three. My older brother and sister both remember having a male parent, but I have always felt a void. This is why it has been extremely important for me to be a good father to my children. Somehow all my dreams were dashed, however. My two sons, now in their twenties, are not speaking to me. They resent the way I brought them up. I am hurt by this, and amazed! I was a real, live father to those boys, and they have no sense of appreciation at what a gap the lack of a father can create. Their relationship with their mother has always been very good. She has tried to bridge the gap between us many times, but hasn't been successful. What can I do to mend the damage?

Freelance Father
Somewhere in Israel

Dear FF,
The first thing you can do is stop expecting your sons to "appreciate" having a father who didn't die when they were toddlers. They cannot conceive emotionally of having grown up with only one parent, since they were blessed with two.

Ironically, by trying to spare our children from traumas of our own childhood, we parents often create different kinds of problems along the way. Unwittingly, you may have alienated your sons in some

way while struggling to be "there" for them.

But this should not give rise to brow-beating on your part if you are to make any serious attempt at rectifying the situation. After all, you never had a father around from whom to learn what being a father means. Your "dreams" of a certain kind of family life grew out of yearning for such a life, rather than from experience. It is no wonder, then, that these dreams were "dashed" when your relationship with your children ended up following a different scenario from the one you had imagined.

Now, instead of dwelling on the past, you should examine the present. That your sons are grown does not mean that it is too late. On the contrary, sometimes merely the responsibility of young children itself puts a damper on familial bliss. Perhaps now is the time to try and understand the essence of the "gap" which is so painful to you. One way of doing this is to observe your wife's relationship with your sons. Listening to the message they are giving you through the "cold shoulder" could also be invaluable. As could therapy.

Dear Ruthie,
I have been divorced for three years, and have been afraid to start dating again, even though there are a few women I know who interest me. My problem is that I don't want any more children (I already have three), so a woman who hasn't had children yet is out of the question. On the other hand,

I don't want a woman who has children, since I am not really crazy about kids other than my own, and can't imagine being a stepfather. This leaves only women who neither have nor want children - also problematic, because I think that there's something wrong with a woman who doesn't want children. So, you can see my problem.

Daunted by Dating after Divorce
Jerusalem

Dear Date-Daunted,
The problem I can "see" here is the discrepancy between what you imagine to be your interest in having a female partner of some kind, and your actual desire to connect to "flesh and blood." By intellectualizing your "options," you cleverly disqualify potential candidates before ever having a real person of the opposite sex sit opposite you in any context, including a date. This is an unconscious trick you are playing on yourself - one which, if successful, will prevent you from having a woman in your life for good. If staying solo is not your long-term goal, you must begin to confront the internal problem you are having in relation to women rather than the unsuitability of all of the women around you.

One final point: the one "category" you failed to mention is women whose children are over 18.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

Sensitivities, symbols crash around Canada

The nearly naked Indian is being removed from Ottawa's monument honoring Champlain; Jews in Quebec want the name of an antisemitic cleric stripped from a subway station; and the name of Chinaman Lake has been banished in British Columbia. Travelers in the Yukon, likewise, won't be using Jack London Road when they enter Whitehorse. London, it turns out, said some not very flattering things about Canada's Indians following his adventures during the Gold Rush - so he won't have a road named in his honor.

For a nonimperialist, un-intrusive, good-guy nation, Canada is still finding plenty of public symbols to sanitize out of sensitivity to Indians and other ethnic groups. Although the country has never started wars, didn't allow slavery, and in modern times elevated multiculturalism to official policy, its largely European sensibility tattooed the landscape with plenty of notions now deemed politically incorrect.

That legacy is being erased bit by bit. It is in the Canadian nature to be sensitive to others, said Kathy Watson, the mayor of Whitehorse, which was planning to name one of its main streets after London before members of the local Indian community raised questions about the writer's racial attitudes.

Joe Jack, chief of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, said members of tribes in the Yukon and elsewhere are sensitive to geographical names. Traditionally, they were used to link features of the landscape with tribal history or stories. Modern European names should not be insulting, he said, which is how members of the Kwanlin Dun viewed the naming of the road after London.

Some people were saying that the bias or the personal feelings or attitudes of people 100 years

ago should not be taken to heart at this late date, Jack said. The Kwanlin Dun, however, cited personal letters in which London appeared to advocate white superiority. Although the evidence was disputed by London aficionados - who argue that the writer was relatively progressive for his era - Watson said the issue was sensitive enough to cause the town to drop its plans and search for ways to use London's name and Yukon legacy in a way that would not offend the Kwanlin Dun.

"I can see where there is lots of room for progress in appreciating the challenges of racial groups and minorities," Watson said. "If we look at the way places and things have been named, there is a huge European influence. I would suspect that this could be an issue in any town or any territory or province."

In Canada, the issue reflects a heightened sensitivity to the feelings of groups that create what the country thinks of as its mosaic of identities - a metaphor it prefers to the American melting pot. Chinaman Lake in British Columbia did not originate in a slur, said Janet Mason, the province's toponymist, but in honor of several settlers of Chinese descent who had frozen and died while wintering there.

However, Mason said, that particular word apparently has not stood the test of time. She said her agency will discuss what to call the lake and several other geographical features carrying the Chinaman name. A possibility, she said, is to research who the settlers were and use their names.

Similarly, the Indian figure kneeling at the base of Samuel de Champlain's statue in Ottawa was added several years after the original was erected to reflect the explorer's use of native

guides. But the guides' subservient position to The First Great Canadian - as the French explorer and founder of Quebec is called in the monument - annoyed local Indian leaders.

The National Capital Commission recently agreed to remove the scout and hopes, through negotiations with Assembly of First Nations leaders, to incorporate it in a new monument in a way they find acceptable.

In Montreal, meanwhile, the debate over symbolism is being prosecuted on two fronts - by members of the Jewish community in a campaign against the Lionel Groulx subway station, and by the government of Quebec against Anglo-Canada's royal representative in the province, the lieutenant governor.

Groulx, a priest, was a leading intellectual force of Quebec nationalism. He died in 1967, and was honored in the naming of a main Montreal subway station. Recent scholarship has documented that Groulx's writings were laced with antisemitism, and local Jewish groups want his name stricken from the station. The request is pending with Quebec's transit authorities.

The question is being raised at a time when debate over past sins is at a high pitch in Montreal. Two Quebec officials, including a judge, are under scrutiny following recent revelations that they participated in the separatist violence of the 1960s and early '70s. And the province's federally appointed lieutenant governor, Jean-Louis Roux, resigned after acknowledging in an interview that he had drawn a swastika on his lab coat while in medical school in the 1940s, and participated in rallies that ended in anti-Jewish vandalism.

(The Washington Post)



Hundreds of children at a tree-planting ceremony during a dual birthday celebration for the JNF and Kfar Tavor last month. (Joe Malcolm)

The tree man of Galilee: Green thumb extraordinaire

By ELISA KORENTAYER

There is no chance Itzik Hido forgot that today is Tu B'Shvat, the holiday devoted to the celebration of trees.

For the past 45 years, Hido has devoted his life to trees. As the Jewish National Fund's area forester for the Gilboa Region, he's in charge of the care and maintenance of the forests of Lower Galilee.

In the course of his work, he has overseen the planting of 15 million trees in Galilee; his own hands have patted the earth around 250,000 freshly planted saplings. The fruits of his labor: the many lush woodlands of Galilee including the Churchill, Gilboa, Ein Dor, Biriya and Nazareth forests, to list but a few.

The efforts of Hido and the JNF in land reclamation and afforestation show that the high value that Israel holds for trees has not declined over the years. However, Hido is concerned that too many of us neglect to cherish the beauty of the trees around us.

Even where tree-planting is an annual celebration and part of the Zionist legacy, Israelis do not often stop to appreciate the role of trees in the development of the modern state.

Hido believes that trees are much more than just the tools for land reclamation; in fact, they could be a means of solving some larger problems, such as coexistence. He thinks that Israelis should put aside their differences and work for the greater good of nature.

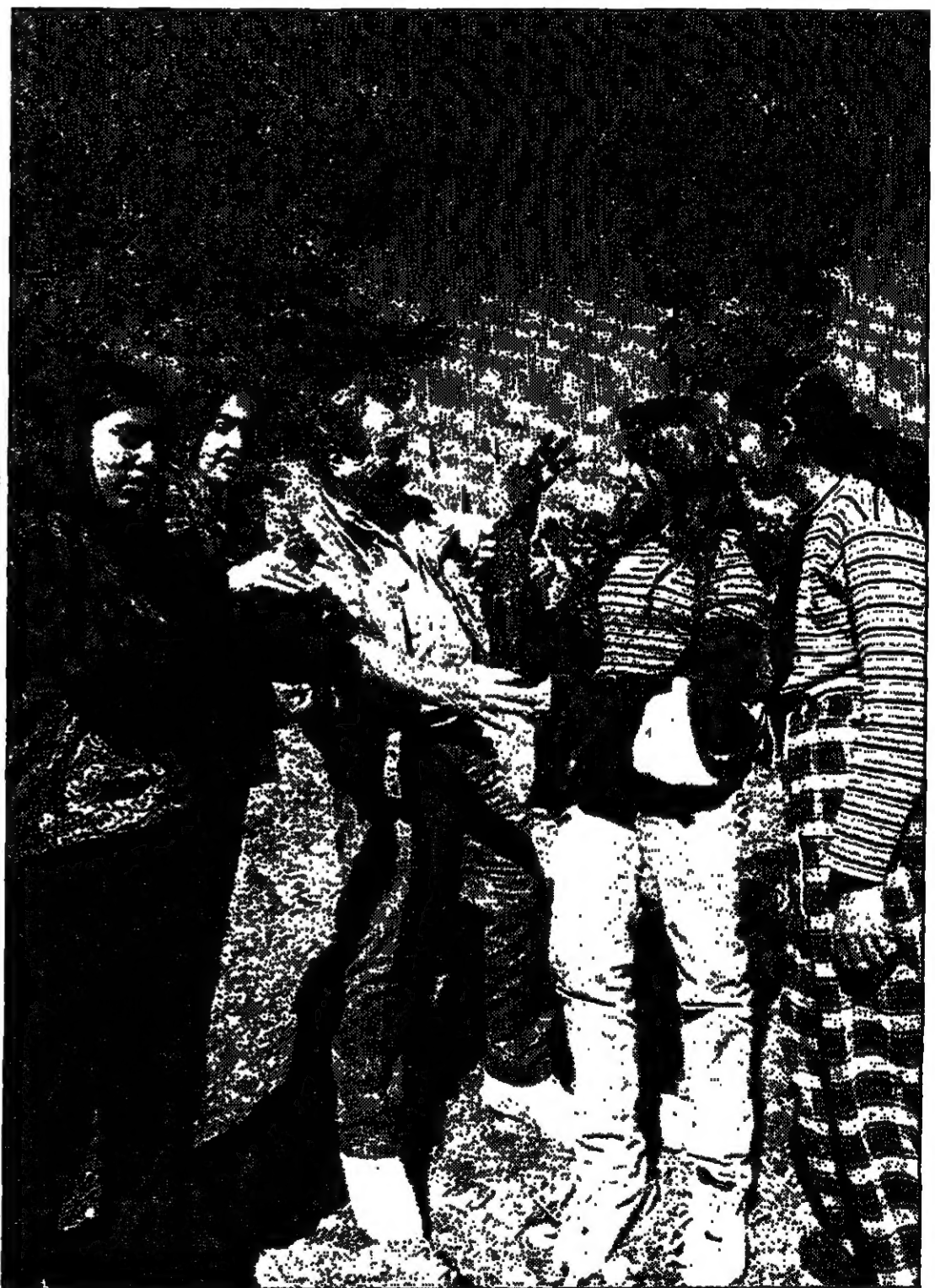
"Jews, Moslems and Christians must understand that the root is not nothing," he says. "We must protect this land, the parks. We [need] an active partnership dedicated to the peace and quiet of the forests."

"It is impossible to do it alone. It is essential to do it together."

What does planting a tree mean to Hido? More than just the act itself. Planting a tree, he says, "makes you part of the land; you belong to it."

With passionate intensity, Hido describes his love for forests. "Nothing is as beautiful as the middle of a forest." He sees the tranquility, peace and beauty of forests as the hope and birthright of future generations. As such he believes it essential to instill esteem for forests in our children.

"We need to show them how to



Itzik Hido with teens at a Kfar Tavor tree planting: Trees are more than just the tools for land reclamation - they could help solve larger problems, such as coexistence. (Joe Malcolm)

love the land. If you love something, you will protect it."

The best way to teach children is to get them involved. Hido arranged for hundreds of children

to plant trees a month ago, during a dual birthday celebration for the JNF and his hometown of Kfar Tavor. Hido would like to see more

active participation by parents on Tu B'Shvat. "Get in a car, bring your child and go to the forest," he says. "Go see the flowers. Go see the beauty."

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BUSINESS

in brief

Productivity up 4.5%

During the September to November period, industrial production continued to grow at the annual rate of 4.5 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Productivity in the electronic communications equipment segment grew 19%, more than any other sector. Last year industrial production grew 5.5% compared to 1995, when the growth rate totalled 8.5%. The number of people employed in the industrial sector increased 1.5% during the previous year.

Jennifer Friedman

Ein Gedi, Jafra launch mineral water plant

Kibbutz Ein Gedi and Jafra-Tabori have invested \$5.5 million in the establishment of a mineral water filling factory, which was ceremonially inaugurated yesterday in Ein Gedi. The local mineral water market is estimated at \$30 million, representing about five percent of the soft drinks market. Despite a growth rate of about 17% a year, the domestic market's consumption of water is relatively low compared with European markets. The average yearly mineral water consumption in Israel is 21 liters per person compared with 130 liters in Italy and 110 liters in France.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Israel-UK Chamber of Commerce awards firms

The Israel-UK Chamber of Commerce is to give awards tonight to three companies which have shown outstanding performance in foreign trade with Britain in 1996. The award for outstanding investor will go to Unilever Israel, producer and marketer of consumer goods. The company invested over \$100 million in Strauss and Vico last year. The award for outstanding exporter will go to Eastern Automobile Marketing (EAM), an importer of automobiles from the Rover Group. Last year, EAM imported automobiles and parts worth \$35m, showing a 50% rise in sales. The award for outstanding exporter will go to Nice Systems, specializing in the development and marketing of computer telephony integration. In 1996, the company exported \$4.5m. worth of products to Britain. The awards are scheduled to take place at the Israel-UK Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala Dinner in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Workplace conflict forum established

The government, Histadrut and employers groups yesterday launched a permanent joint committee which will examine issues of conflict in the workplace and economy in general. The Joint Government and Workplace Representatives Committee, which will meet once every two months, comprises four government representatives - including Labor and Social Affairs Ministry legal adviser Yitzhak Barak (chairman) and Treasury Wages and Labor Agreements director Yossi Kucik, four Histadrut officials and four employers, including a representative of the Manufacturers Association.

David Harris

Statistics bureau launches Internet site

Internet users here and abroad are now able to obtain vital statistics on the economy, the census and other data from the Central Bureau of Statistics' (CBS) new Web site. Launched yesterday, the user-friendly site is available in English and Hebrew. Located at <http://www.cbs.gov.il>, the site was made possible with help from the National Committee for Information Infrastructure and Computer Communications, headed by Prof. Dani Dolev.

Chief statistician Prof. Yosef Yabav noted that the site is meant for economic and political decision makers and researchers as well as the general public. The site shows price indices, population and housing census information, lists of publications and other data, and allows users to conduct searches of CBS material by the year, quarter, end of year or end of quarter, according to the various Cost-of-Living indices. The CBS site follows the recent launching of the Knesset's and Finance Ministry's Web sites.

Judy Siegel

Generali to consider Holocaust victims' life insurance claims

Shorer: Sale of Migdal to Italian insurer a separate issue

By DAVID HARRIS

Assicurazioni Generali's legal representative in Israel agreed yesterday to investigate all outstanding claims from the families of Holocaust victims who held insurance policies with the firm. The company, one of Europe's largest insurers, made its commitment at the Knesset Insurance subcommittee, also attended by a number of claimants and their representatives.

The company has until now maintained it has no obligation to pay out on claims where no death certificate was provided. Immediately following the war, the family of policyholder Mor Stern, who took out a life insurance policy in Czechoslovakia, approached Generali, but without

the necessary certificate, and were told that there was no way the company could pay.

Later, all Generali's assets in the country were seized by the Czechs, and they only agreed to compensate the Italian-based company in the late 1960s. After protracted negotiations, the company eventually received \$8 million, money the Stern family and others now claim is theirs.

However, only six percent of this total is the pro rata value of Generali's life insurance business, according to company representative Amihud Ben-Porat. "We have no assets that belong to Holocaust victims," he said at the subcommittee meeting.

Since the issue came to light last year, subcommittee chairman Michael Kleiner (Geshet) said a

number of other Israelis have approached him having found themselves in similar circumstances.

Stern's grandson, Martin, told the hearing that 17 people had contacted him to find out how they can also attempt to recover their family's money.

Among those attending the session were a lawyer acting for three clients, a woman acting for her mother and aunt, and two other claimants.

Stern accused Generali of having misled him by having initially said the policy did not exist, but Ben-Porat said that Generali staff undertook an extensive search to find the document and immediately informed Stern they had discovered it. "Generali simply didn't know it had these policies," said

Ben-Porat.

Kleiner asked Ben-Porat why the company is contesting the issue, after all "we're not talking about millions."

"If all claimants will hand me their documentation, Generali will look into every case with an open heart," responded Ben-Porat.

Treasury Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer thanked Stern for raising the issue and praised Ben-Porat for agreeing to look into every case, but he said it is very difficult for him to become involved in the issue. "I have no responsibility nor authority in other countries, especially as this all took place 50 to 70 years ago," said Shorer.

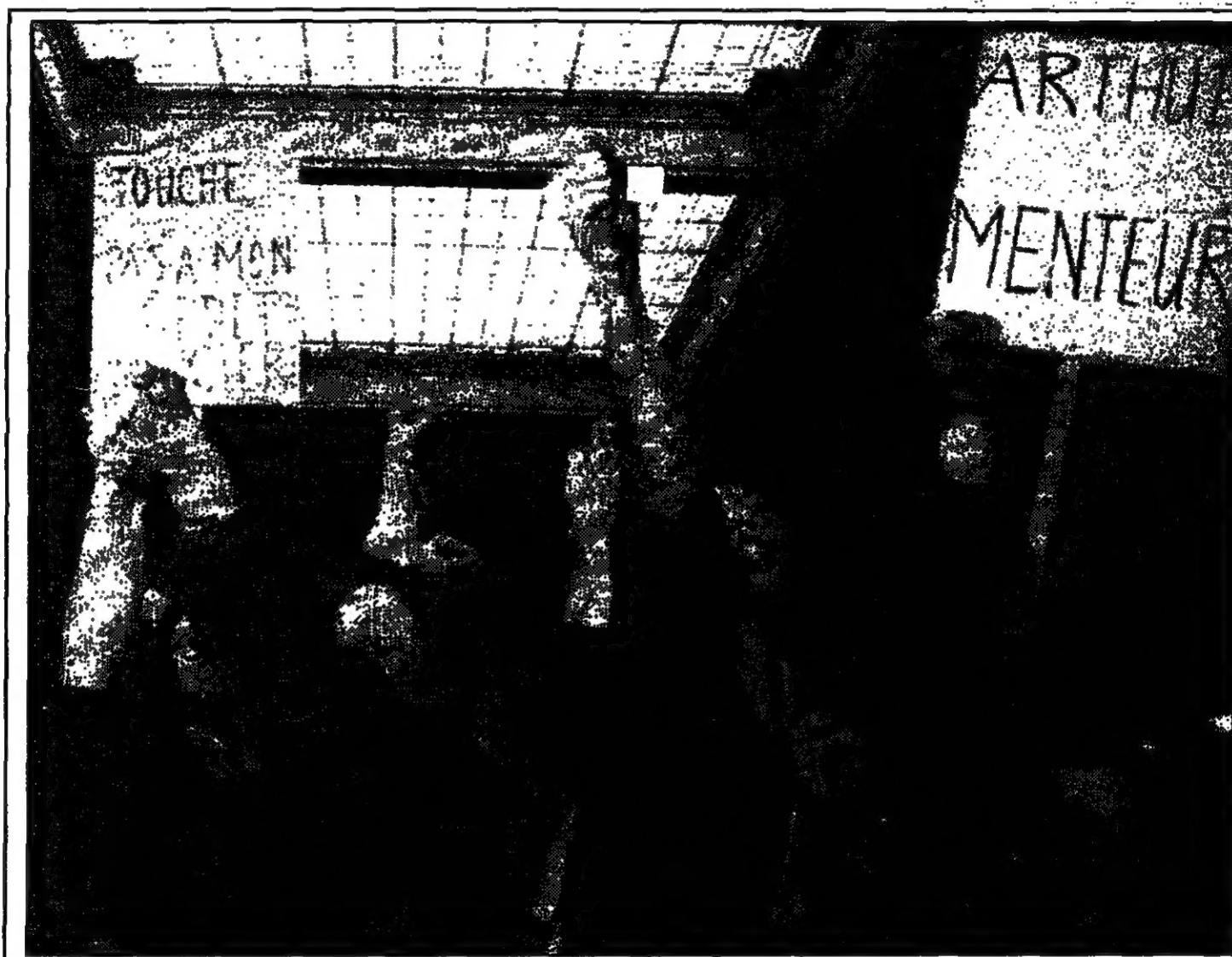
With regard to Generali's purchase of Migdal Insurance from Bank Leumi for \$610m, Shorer

said the two issues are totally separate. "Generali's increased interests are to the good of Israel."

Concluding the debate, Kleiner reminded Ben-Porat that the issue will remain high on his agenda and in the public domain. "We expect the commitments given today to be put into practice, with a serious, deep investigation into all the claims."

Following the hearing, Stern said he was postponing the legal action scheduled for London next week to give Generali time to begin its investigations; the new date has been set for March 3. Stern, though, remains skeptical.

This ex-gratia agreement on a policy-by-policy basis gives Generali the role of God, and in this I find the idea at the very least flawed."



Ongoing strike

Credit Foncier bank staff hold signs and shout in the Paris bank's giant atrium as their siege continues into its sixth day. Employees freed chairman Jerome Meyssonnier, who had been held since last week by staff opposed to government plans to break up the 145-year-old bank.

(Reuters)

Private political risk insurance allowed

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Israel Land Development (Hachsharat Hayishuv) Insurance Company has received the Supervisor of Insurance's approval to provide political risk insurance, a field which has traditionally been dominated by the government-owned Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Company.

Until a few years ago only state-owned firms provided political insurance coverage to businesses. But, as part of the privatization process worldwide, private firms have started to receive approval to provide short-term political insurance policies, of up to one year.

Insurance sources said yesterday that Hachsharat Hayishuv's approval was granted as part of the government's plans to privatize IFTRIC. Several weeks ago, Hachsharat Hayishuv, a kibbutz-owned insurance firm, announced it has started to provide trade and political risk insurance policies to agricultural companies.

Hachsharat Hayishuv's approval to sell insurance policies of this kind is "a good thing" but will not be significant to the company's overall business, a source said. He added that most of the local market's short-term export transactions do not require political risk insurance since they are to OECD countries. Political risk insurance coverage is necessary only to unpopular destinations, he said.

"From now on, we will compete with IFTRIC under equal conditions - it is good for the exporters, it is good for the market," said Ron Weisberg, general manager and CEO of Hachsharat Hayishuv Insurance. Since the company's formation one year ago, it has sold foreign trade insurance policies of more than NIS 500 million.

As a result of the changes in world trade, most countries are open to free trade, which involve political risks, said Eini Kamir, manager of the company's credit insurance division. "A company that is interested in giving its customers a full range of products in the credit field must also be active in the political risk field," he said.

IAI delivers jets to Cambodia

By STEVE RODAN

Israel Aircraft Industries delivered the first two of six trainer jets to Cambodia yesterday for that country's coastal patrol, in the framework of a \$6.3 million deal. IAI representatives handed over the Czech-made L-39 Albatrosses in a ceremony in Phnom Penh that included Cambodian Defense

Secretary EK Sereyath. Representing the Israeli company was Dory Weiss.

The IAI deal includes the delivery of four more used L-39s, upgrades of MIG-21s in the Cambodian Air Force, spare parts and training. Sereyath said the remaining trainer jets will arrive by April. IAI refused to comment. Since 1995, Israeli companies

have been involved in the upgrade and delivery of L-39s to several countries in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia.

Sereyath told reporters at the ceremony the deal with IAI represents the minimum Cambodia needs for its defense, since neighboring Thailand and Vietnam have much larger air forces.

The L-39 trainers can carry bombs and rockets and be deployed as close fire support aircraft. The defense minister said the planes would also be used to deter smuggling and illegal fishing.

Defense officials said the planes would not be used against an estimated 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas still roaming the Cambodian countryside. The Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of three million Cambodians in the late 1970s, has sustained the defection of thousands since August.

Cambodian defense officials said the L-39, which contains advanced electronics, is more important than the MIG. The air force has about 40 planes, including helicopters. Its fleet of MIGs has deteriorated from years of neglect but officials say the planes can be repaired.

Foreign capital influx to Egypt raises overheating fears in gov't

CAIRO (Reuters) - Heavy inflows of foreign capital have put the Egyptian government on alert for signs of overheating, a rise in the value of the pound or sudden growth in money supply, an economic minister said yesterday.

The inflows have been especially heavy since Standard and Poor's gave Egypt investment-grade credit ratings last week.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told a meeting this week that these ratings could help attract an extra \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in foreign investment in the country.

"We are very happy with the ratings and with their impact on our capital markets and our direct investment inflows," Minister of State Youssef Boutros-Ghali said. "We are not concerned, but we are very watchful about any issues of overheating, an appreciating currency or any blip in the money supply."

The government has not had time to measure the inflows, which bankers and brokers say have been especially heavy in the stock exchange and in Egyptian pound fixed-income instruments, which offer very attractive rates of interest.

"We are waiting for the dust to

settle," said Boutros-Ghali, who specializes in economic matters in the prime minister's office. "There is an initial enthusiasm in the market, which then finds a cruising speed. It's too soon to make a judgment."

Bankers say the inflows have tended to make the Egyptian pound appreciate against the dollar but Boutros-Ghali said this was not significant and would not continue.

"If [the exchange rate] is not going to move, we have a monetary policy with an explicit monetary growth target that takes into consideration the fact that the exchange rate is not going to appreciate," the minister said. "The money supply is under control, there's no problem there. We haven't had time [to see danger signs], but our watchfulness has increased."

He said the latest figures he had seen showed money supply growth at between 10 and 10.5 percent a year, about the same as in the middle of last year.

Boutros-Ghali said the Standard and Poor's ratings would encourage the government to press ahead with economic reform, not to rest on its laurels. "The voice of confidence puts on you an additional

burden that you have to make sure that you maintain that confidence. If anything it has increased our resolve to forge on and make sure that they [the reforms] don't go off track," he added.

The next stage of reform would include more privatization, deregulation, structural reforms and the elimination of bureaucratic obstacles, he said.

The minister said he foresaw all Egyptian macroeconomic variables, such as inflation and interest rates, gradually converging towards global norms.

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 250,000)	1.825	1.825	1.825
Swiss franc (SF 250,000)	0.825	0.825	0.825
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)			
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.1.97)			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
U.S. dollar	3.2500	3.2500	3.2500
German mark	2.0058	2.0058	2.0058
French franc	5.4085	5.4085	5.4085
Japanese yen (100)	0.0093	0.0093	0.0093
Dutch florin	2.2032	2.2032	2.2032
Swiss franc	1.8143	1.8143	1.8143
Spanish peseta	2.3021	2.3021	2.3021
Swedish krona	0.4674	0.4674	0.4674
Norwegian krona	0.5041	0.5041	0.5041
Denish krona	0.5291	0.5291	0.5291
Finnish mark	0.5814	0.5814	0.5814
Canadian dollar	2.4302	2.4302	2.4302
Australian dollar	2.5293	2.5293	2.5293
S. African rand	0.5884	0.5884	0.5884
Belgian franc (10)	0.9727	0.9727	0.9727
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8516	2.8516	2.8516
Italian lira (1000)	2.0656	2.0656	2.0656
Jordanian dinar	4.5200	4.5200	4.5200
Egyptian pound	0.9200	0.9200	0.9200
ECU	3.9060	3.9060	3.9060
Irish punt	5.2768	5.2768	5.2768
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3894	2.3894	2.3894

*These rates vary according to bank.
**Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Israel salvages 1-1 draw against Greece

By DEREK FATTAL

The national soccer squad put on another pitiful display last night and was fortunate to contain Greece to a 1-1 draw at a storm-lashed Teddy Stadium.

The Greeks went ahead early in the match through Christos Kostas, only for dead-ball specialist Itzik Zohar to fire in an equalizer from a 28-meter free kick twelve minutes into the second half.

The monsoon conditions ensured that only a handful of spectators turned up for the match. Those who braved the deluge found the rain had made the pitch into swamp that made productive play almost impossible and full credit is due to both sides who combined to put on show that managed to resemble soccer more than water polo.

Neither team was at full strength for this match, and although coach Shlomo Scharf was supportive of his men after the game the inescapable verdict is that the decline that began with the World Cup qualification defeat in Cyprus has not been arrested. The total lack of chemistry amongst an opening line up that included six Betar Jerusalem players was profoundly disturbing.

The Greeks were of a higher standard than their hosts throughout the game, and weathered the conditions more quickly than the

Israelis. In contrast to Israel's play, the Greeks purposeful economic build-up repeatedly pressurized Israel's defense and center forward Kostas proved to be a constant headache for his markers.

At the other end, Eli Ohana and Alon Mizrahi wandered around aimlessly as their midfield unit endeavored to aquaplane through the sodden centerfield instead of using the wings.

Shmuel Levy had a poor international debut and Gadi Brumer was particularly ineffectual. On this performance Brumer would have trouble stirring interest at Altrincham never mind Manchester United. Both players were at fault in the ninth minute when Kostas zipped between them and successfully guided the ball into goal over the advancing figure of Israeli goalkeeper Itzik Kornfein.

The Israelis responded with their best-crafted move of the first period with Mizrahi and Avi Nimni conspiring together in a move that ended in a Nimni shot that which forced a spectacular save from Mikopaulos.

Nevertheless, for the most of the game the Israeli defense granted their opponents a measure of liberty more usually associated with a romp in the Greek Islands than the penalty area. They nearly paid the price in the last minute of the first half after an embarrassing mix-up

between Kornfein and Amir Shelach.

Scharf's four half-time substitutions - particularly the introduction of Alon Hazan and Felix Halfon for Levy and Yossi Abukis - brought more order to the side. Zohar began to assert himself and hit the crossbar at the end of an exciting move fashioned by Avi Nimni and David Amisalem in the 53rd minute. The Greeks continued to threaten with Nikolaides bringing out the best of substitute goalkeeper Golan Malul in the next attacking move.

Israel's salvation came in the 57th minute from a fierce free kick unleashed by Zohar that took a slight deflection off the shoulder of a Greek player in the three-man wall before soaring into the back of the net.

Greece had what appeared to be a rightful claim for a penalty waved away by referee Amit Klein five minutes later. This was followed by a Kostas hitting the woodwork with Malul beaten in a move heralding a spell of total Greek domination lasting until the final 10 minutes.

At that stage with the visitors content with a draw, Eli Ohana had two clear chances to win the game. Had Ohana found the net, who knows what wrath the gods might have poured down from the heavens in reaction to such injustice.

Jordan scores season-high 51 points

CHICAGO (AP) - Michael Jordan showed that he can destroy his enemies, too.

Accused by New York coach Jeff Van Gundy of befriending opposing players only to crush their spirits later, Jordan buried the Knicks with 51 points and carried the Chicago Bulls to an 88-87 victory Tuesday night.

"I guess I didn't make any friends out there tonight," Jordan said after reaching the 50-point mark for the 36th time in his career. It was the best scoring performance in the NBA this season.

Playing without suspended Dennis Rodman and injured Ron Harper, the Bulls won for the 10th time in 11 games and improved to 35-5. The lone loss during that string was Sunday at Houston. Chicago is 20-1 at home, with 13 straight victories.

In besting his own 50-point performance of November 6, Jordan reached the 50-point mark for the 36th time in his career. The league's all-time leader in points per game, Jordan is going for his ninth scoring title; this season, he's averaging 31 points - four-and-a-half more than anyone else.

Jordan was 18-of-30 from the floor, including 5-of-8 from 3-point range and 10-of-11 from the line. The rest of the Chicago team shot 35 percent from the floor, and Jordan scored all but two of the Bulls' fourth-quarter points.

Patrick Ewing scored 19 points for New York, which used a 17-2 run to cut a 17-point deficit to 80-78 with 6:22 left. Allan Houston, who had missed 12 of his first 13 shots, made two 3-pointers and a pull-up jumper to spark the surge.

But Jordan scored Chicago's final eight points, getting to the 51-point mark with a fade-away 20-foot jumper over Houston with 26.7 seconds left to put the Bulls up 88-81.

Hornets 114, Rockets 108

Glen Rice scored a season-high 42 points, including 19 in the final quarter, as host Charlotte snapped Houston's four-game winning streak.

Rice became the first Hornets player to score 30 or more points in four straight games. He has averaged more than 30 in his last 12 games.

Dell Curry added 23 points, while Anthony Mason contributed 19 points and nine rebounds. Clyde Drexler had 39 points and Hakeem Olajuwon 26 for Houston.



BACK OFF - Chicago's Michael Jordan pushes New York's Allan Houston.

Scoring leaders

	G	FG	FT	Pt	Avg
Jordan, CHI	40	460	265	1234	30.9
O'Neal, LAL	40	432	182	1046	26.2
Spivey, G.S.	39	333	280	1012	25.9
Malone, UTA	40	402	228	1030	25.8
Olajuwon, HOU	37	354	181	882	24.1
Richmond, SAC	40	338	215	953	24.1
Rice, CHA	37	309	178	887	24.0

Other leaders

	G	FG	FT	Pt	Avg
Iverson, PHI	34	259	182	775	22.8
Baker, MIL	38	308	183	807	22.4
Peyton, SEA	40	353	128	888	22.2
Robinson, MIA	38	332	146	841	22.1
Gugliotta, MINN	40	301	257	878	22.0
Kemp, SEA	40	301	254	876	21.9
188, DET	37	281	218	789	21.3
Ewing, N.Y.	40	323	203	85	21.3
Gill, N.J.	37	284	186	753	21.2
Miller, IND	37	256	186	732	21.1

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Toronto 118, Minnesota 106	Orlando 93, Washington 88
Miami 94, Atlanta 91	Charlotte 114, Houston 108
Chicago 88, New York 87	Indiana 92, Milwaukee 89
Portland 100, L.A. Clippers 82	Golden State 105, Dallas 93

Hingis may become youngest Grand Slam champion this century

MELBOURNE (AP) - If 16-year-old Martina Hingis becomes the youngest Grand Slam champion of this century, she may have another distinction too - only tennis player ever to fall off a horse during a major tournament.

The fall during an attempted jump on Tuesday didn't stop her from continuing her ride. Then yesterday, Irina Spirlea couldn't stop her advance into her second consecutive Grand Slam semifinal, falling 7-5, 6-2 to Hingis's precise, confident strokes under pressure.

Hingis made only one unforced error in the second set.

In the first semifinal of Hingis's young Grand Slam career, at the US Open last summer, world No. 1 Steffi Graf proved too formidable an obstacle.

At this Australian Open, the top three seeds - Graf, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez - all had lost before the quarter-finals. Defending champion Monica Seles stayed away with a broken finger.

For a place in the finals, No. 4 seed Hingis next faces No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez, a 7-5, 4-0 winner when Belgian giant-killer Dominique van Roost quit in tears and pain from an abdominal muscle injury.

"Her game suits me," Hingis said of Fernandez.

The other semifinal pits No. 12 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, Graf's conqueror here, against 1995 champion Mary Pierce, unseeded after a dismal 1996.

The men's semifinal lineup also includes some unfamiliar faces for such a late stage in a hardcourt Grand Slam tournament.

No. 5 Thomas Muster, an undisputed master on clay but playing only his second Grand Slam semifinal on any other surface, reached that stage by capitalizing on the errors of No. 3 Goran Ivanisevic for a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory.

Ivanisevic hit 16 aces but won only 28 percent of his second serve points as he tried desperately for winners and sprayed 54 unforced errors to Muster's

14. Muster now faces No. 1 Pete Sampras, who needed five sets to beat No. 10 Albert Costa despite losing his serve only once. Sampras served 23 aces as he prevailed 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 in 2 hours, 52 minutes. The Spaniard, successful earlier on a number of drop shots, netted one on match point.

Also in the semifinals, facing No. 2 Michael Chang, is No. 25-ranked Carlos Moya of Spain, whose first year of Grand Slams in 1996 produced two first- and two second-round losses.

Hingis said she won't do any more riding during the Open - there isn't time.

The fall, she said, "wasn't dangerous at all. My mom was there and she was laughing. Everybody was laughing."

There were no such mistakes on key points in yesterday's tennis as Hingis rebounded from early service breaks by No. 8 seed Spirlea in both sets. Her Romanian opponent hit some impressive winners, but in the second set had 13 unforced errors to Hingis's one.

Keeping up such mastery could make Hingis the youngest winner at any Grand Slam since Charlotte "Lottie" Dod captured Wimbledon at 15 in 1887.

Van Roost was trying to become the first Belgian woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal in the open era, after knocking out No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and No. 15 Chanda Rubin, a semifinalist last year.

But at 5-5 in the first set, an abdominal muscle injury that had bothered her for a week, along with back and forearm pains, flared up strongly.

With her serve and overhead shots fading, van Roost fell behind 7-5, 1-0. She had the trainer rewrap her abdomen, but the pain still worsened and she quit after losing three more games.

"I did the best that I could until the end," she said. "I had to stop. It was just too much hurting for me."

Maccabi in Greece for crucial match against Olympiakos

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Maccabi Tel Aviv faces one of its toughest matches so far this season, invading Athens to battle four-time defending Greek champions Olympiakos in the Euro League tonight.

The contest is a crucial matchup for both teams, as only one game separates the two clubs in the race to finish in the top four in the group and advance to the Final 16.

A loss for either club would almost certainly leave it in fifth place, with only three games to go, since CSKA Moscow should have no difficulty defeating winless Charleroi.

Maccabi will need to raise their game tonight to a much higher level than in its easy victory over Charleroi at Yad Eliash last week.

The blue-and-yellow are only 1-6 in the championships in Greece this decade. The one victory came earlier this season over Panionios, a club whose current 3-9 record in the championships shows it is not the class of Greek basketball, which has filled five of the 12 slots in the last three European Final Fours.

Olympiakos has advanced to the European title game twice (1994 and 1995) and rolled up a 38-18

final pool record, entering this season, since bursting onto the scene as a European power in 1993.

Although this year's club has slipped to 6-6, Olympiakos has maintained its dominance at home, boasting a 5-1 mark on its own court to boost its home record to 34-6 over the past four-plus European seasons.

The Greeks lost a tight 73-71 contest at Milano last Thursday but rebounded earlier this week to defeat arch-rivals Panathinaikos and keep a hold on first place in the Greek league with a 14-2 record.

The club is led by foreign star David Rivers, averaging 16.3 points and 3.8 assists a contest. At the midseason break, Olympiakos waived its other foreigner, former NBA player Willie Anderson, but his replacement has yet to play with the team.

The Greeks have also been another man short due to the injury two months ago of leading rebounder Dragan Tarlach, who might return to action tonight.

Even without his services, Olympiakos has remained the best rebounding team in the Euro League, helped out by long-time veteran Panagiotis Fassoulas (6.1

boards a game) and former NBA player Christian Welp, giving them a distinctive edge in that department over the Israelis.

Team captain Georgios Sigalas and Demetrios Papanikolaou also are a key part of the team, although their dismal free-throw shooting contributes to Olympiakos's 68 percent from the line, one of Europe's worst and far below Maccabi's 79.2%.

"Maccabi will need to exploit all their advantages to pull out a victory and overcome the notoriously wild and crazy crowd in Athens. Ironically, despite Olympiakos's recent prowess in Europe, this is Maccabi's first meeting with the team since the 1979 season, when the Israelis won at Yad Eliash and lost in Athens."

The game tonight is scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1 starting at 8:45 pm.

The other contests in the group pit Alba Berlin against visiting Stefanel Milano and Charleroi hosting CSKA Moscow.

Group E	W	L	Pts
Stefanel Milano	9	3	21
Alba Berlin	8	4	20
Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	6	18
CSKA Moscow	6	6	18
Olympiakos	6	6	18
Charleroi	0	12	12

Sports

in brief

Shmerkin 12th place in figure skating tourney

Misha Shmerkin is lying in 12th position in the European Figure Skating Championships in Strasbourg, France, after performing in the technical program yesterday.

Today is Shmerkin's chance to improve his position in the competition to be shown live on Eurosport. Leading the event now is Russia's Ilia Kulik with Ukraine's Masha Medvedeva. Zagorodnik and year's European champion, in second place. The Israeli duo of Gali Gali and Sergei Sakharovskiy took 10th place in their competition on Tuesday and are also in the top 10 in their category.

By HAZEL KATZ

Kobi Ziv out of Australian Open junior category

Kobi Ziv, 17, in the world junior rankings, lost the second round match in the junior tournament of the Australian Open yesterday. Ziv, who had fought off the eighth seed Dan Saviano in the first round, 7-5, 6-0 in the first round, faced David Shawcross from Britain in the next round. Ziv began powerfully, but lost for the first time in his career and the deciding set 4-6, 7-5, 7-3, 6-4. Earlier in the day Ziv reached the final of another junior tournament when he lost to a Melbourne player.

By HAZEL KATZ

Vermeil named Rams' coach

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Dick Vermeil returned to coaching after a 14-year absence, bumping to prove to the St. Louis Rams and the NFL that the game hasn't passed him by.

Vermeil, 60, was so fired up during a news conference to announce his five-year, \$9 million deal as coach and president of football operations that he spoke for a half-hour before taking questions from exhausted reporters.

"Ladies and gentlemen, you can't imagine how exciting it is to be here today," said Vermeil, who nearly broke down twice during his emotional monologue. "I have never been, in my life, more confident or better prepared."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL - Hapoel Jerusalem 87, Ulm (Germany) 80.
ENGLISH SOCCER - FA Cup (third round replay): Aston Villa 3, North Country 0.
League Cup quarter-final: Stockport 2, Southampton 2.

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Philadelphia	27	13	6	150
Florida	22	13	10	130
N.Y. Rangers	21	12	7	105
New Jersey	23	16	4	117
Washington	20	21	9	124
Tampa Bay	18	21	8	131
N.Y. Islanders	17	23	8	117

Pacific Division				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Pittsburgh	25	15	5	171
Buffalo	24	17	5	133
Montreal	18	21	5	153
Harford	17	22	4	145
Boston	16	23	6	131
Ottawa	14	25	8	119

Western Conference				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Dallas	25	17	4	133
Edmonton	21	18	8	105
St. Louis	27	22	4	137
Phoenix	19	23	4	125
Chicago	17	23	8	122
Toronto	17	23	8	139

Central Division				
Team	W	L	T	Pts
Colorado	28	11	8	160
Minnesota	27	21	5	147
Vancouver	21	21	8	143
Anheim	17	22	4	135
Calgary	17	24	5	114
Los Angeles	17	24	5	125
San Jose	16	23	5	113

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:

Pittsburgh 4, Calgary 2	Edmonton 4, N.Y. Rangers 4
Dallas 3, Philadelphia 3	Tampa Bay 3, Colorado 2 (OT)
New Jersey 4, Los Angeles 1	

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NEWS

in brief

Zandberg accuses gov't of foiling Addis flight

MK Eliezer Zandberg (Tzomet) held a meeting of Ethiopian immigrants yesterday during which he accused the Interior Ministry of creating unnecessary bureaucratic problems which led to the cancellation of a flight of immigrants from Addis Ababa this week.

He also accused the ministry of foot-dragging in answering the requests of 3,000 Ethiopians who want to immigrate to Israel. The ministry said it was sending a special emissary to Ethiopia next week to study the issue.

Liat Collins

Three sentenced for election campaign attack

Amir Kedoshim, 19, was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment and two years' suspended sentence yesterday by Tel Aviv District Court for shooting Labor Party activist Arthur Yarosky, who was putting up banners during the last election campaign.

Yair Kotzer, 21, of Herzliya received three months' imprisonment and 18 months' suspended and a NIS 2,000 fine, while Kedoshim's uncle, Avi, was given three months' public service.

The three were convicted of aggravated assault and threatening Yarosky while he was pasting up the election posters on May 15 in Herzliya. Yarosky was shot in the leg during the altercation.

Itim

Knesset may allow more writing on graves

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee discussed a proposal yesterday to allow bereaved families of IDF soldiers to add more personal information to the gravestones in military cemeteries, including the names of siblings and a short dedication.

The main discussion is where such information would appear, on the headstone or main part of the grave, and what dedications would be permitted. Members of bereaved families who turned up for yesterday's meeting were not allowed to address the committee, which decided it had enough material to work with and had heard a range of opinions in previous meetings.

Liat Collins

Knesset rejects bills to change direct election of PM law

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset yesterday rejected three private members' bills calling for a change in law for the direct election of the prime minister.

The suggested change would have allowed MKs to oust the prime minister in a vote of no-confidence without dissolving the Knesset and holding new general elections. Under the proposals, new elections would have been held just for the prime minister within 60 days of his being toppled.

The bills were presented by Ra'anan Cohen (Labor), Moshe Shahal (Labor), and Anat Maor (Meretz), with Dalia Itzik (Labor). They were each defeated by large majorities of more than 10 votes.

Maor said the new system of direct elections, held for the first time last year, had significantly weakened the Knesset's standing and increased the power of the premier. Before the law came into

effect, no-confidence motions were passed if a majority of MKs voted for them.

If they passed the president was called on to decide which party had the best chances of forming a coalition. Under the new system a motion of no-confidence in the government does not pass unless a majority of more than 60 MKs support it. The prime minister can be ousted by a majority vote of 81.

Cohen described the new situation as "unbearable." Shahal said the direct elections had caused a situation in which the opposition was being "punished" and could not freely express its lack of confidence.

In two different bills, nicknamed the "Yigal Amir bills," Itzik proposed that a person convicted of murdering the prime minister would have no right to vote. She also suggested that criminals convicted of murder would not have the right to run for office.



Honoring the Beit Lid fallen

Paratroopers pause next to the model of the memorial to honor the 22 victims of the suicide bombing at Beit Lid junction two years ago. A memorial and cornerstone-setting ceremony was held yesterday at the site where the memorial is to be built.

(Israel Sun)

Ganot to head PM's anti-terror division

By RAINE MARCUS

Police Cmdr, Ya'acov Ganot, who was recently cleared by the High Court of Justice of bribery charges, has been appointed police representative to the Prime Minister's Office's war against terror division.

The division is to operate in conjunction with the Internal Security Ministry.

The appointment was

approved yesterday by Insp.-Gen. Assaf Hefetz and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

Ganot, who had been Northern District commander prior to his indictment in 1994, will also lead a special new team that will develop strategies for the Traffic Police, in an attempt to help crack down on road accidents and traffic offenders.

Ganot was given these new

tasks after many in the police force strongly objected to his appointment as National Special Operations Officer.

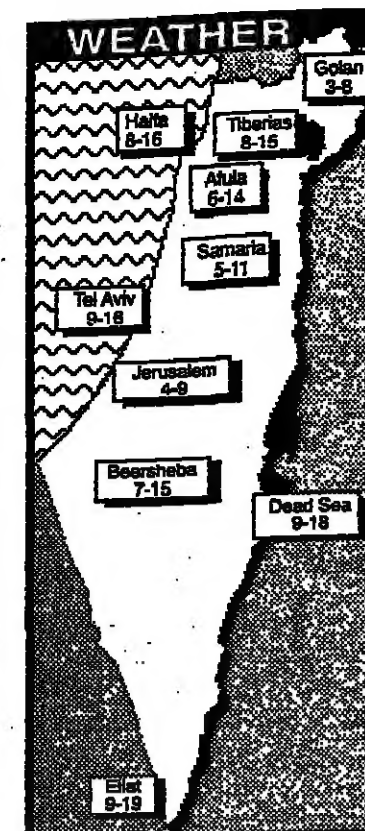
The Nazareth District Court last May acquitted Ganot of bribery, fraud and breach of trust charges; the state's appeal of the acquittal was rejected by the High Court several weeks ago.

In the Prime Minister's Office, Ganot will act as an

intermediary between police, the General Security Service and the Mossad on issues relating to anti-terror operations.

He will also be involved in transport and education security and the assistance provided by the US to beef up security resources.

Regarding his post in the traffic police, Ganot will be in charge of headquarters and organizational work.



Forecast: Rainy, possible thunderstorms.

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the ten of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the ten of clubs.

TA-Casablanca flights this summer

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israelis can expect to be able to fly directly this summer from Tel Aviv to Casablanca on either El Al or Royal Air Maroc (RAM), the Moroccan national airline, according to aviation sources.

The aviation talks between Israel and Morocco have been stepped up following the Hebron agreement. This week, RAM, which is owned by King Hassan II, invited its Israeli representative, Ephraim Fortis, to come to Morocco to discuss plans to adjust schedules.

Panel debates minimum wage bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday discussed the minimum wage bill, which would raise the minimum salary to between 45 and 50 percent of the average wage, instead of 42%, and which would be updated twice yearly and not annually as at present.

The bill was submitted in the last Knesset by MKs Anat Maor (Meretz), Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), Hashem Mahmood (Likud), and Meir Sheerit (Likud). Several members of the textile, hotel and cleaning industry at the meeting yesterday said factories

would not be able to continue to operate if the wages were raised, and the bill would result in dismissals. Doron Tamir of the Industrialists Association said: "The question isn't whether a worker can live on NIS 2,300 a month but whether industries can pay it."

Committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher-Likud) strongly supports the bill. "More than 700,000 people in Israel live below the poverty line. What more can one say about the minimum wages when we hear that the senior [public sector] employees earn between NIS 30,000 to NIS 40,000 a month and nobody claims that their wages

cause the closures of factories? Anyone sensitive to social issues must agree that today is the most appropriate time to raise the cry of workers who earn NIS 2,085 a month."

Several of the MKs noted that the timing coincided with their own wages being raised an additional 7% on top of the 33% addition they received in October.

In the plenum, a bill which would limit the maximum wages of senior civil servants and employees of public bodies passed preliminary reading by a large majority. The bill was raised by Maor, Ran Cohen (Meretz) and Haim Oron (all Meretz).

Momentum for Swiss gesture to Holocaust victims

ZURICH (AP) — The president of Switzerland's second-largest bank stepped up pressure yesterday for a financial gesture from Switzerland in favor of Holocaust victims.

Rainer Gut, president of Credit Suisse, said the Swiss government, the National Bank as well as banks and insurance companies should set up a fund to compensate destitute survivors of Nazi death camps.

Other sectors of industry must join the fund later and it must remain open for contributions from other countries, Gut said in

an interview with the Swiss daily newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*.

Jewish groups claim Swiss banks may be hoarding up to \$7 billion of Jewish assets, unclaimed after the owners perished in the Holocaust.

The banks say the real figure is likely to be only a tiny fraction of that.

The scandal also has reached Sweden. On Tuesday, media there reported that Sweden may knowingly have accepted gold looted from the national banks of countries annexed by Nazi Germany.

Rehov Bar-Ilan issue goes back to High Court

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Jerusalem Municipality has put the issue of Rehov Bar-Ilan back into the hands of the High Court of Justice by announcing that it has no intention of reopening Rehov Yam Suf to traffic on Shabbat.

Ten days ago the court proposed that the Transport Ministry accept a compromise, under which Rehov Bar-Ilan would be closed on

Shabbat, but in exchange, Rehov Yam Suf, which borders Sanhedria Murchevet and Ramat Eshkol, would be opened.

In reply, Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy told the court that he could not reopen Rehov Yam Suf, since it had been closed by the Jerusalem Municipality, and not the Transport Ministry.

Levy then wrote to Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert asking if the municipality would be willing to reopen Rehov Yam Suf. In reply, Olmert

told the minister that only a small portion of Rehov Yam Suf was closed, a section occupied solely by haredi families. Since the other residents of the street can still drive out, Olmert said, he had no intention of opening this part of the street.

"The situation as it now stands is that the High Court will have to reconvene within a few days, receive the letters of the minister and the mayor, and decide," said Yitzhak Rath, Levy's media adviser.

Maccabiah participants to take over TA hotels at end of July

HAIM SHAPIRO

There won't be a room to be had in Tel Aviv during the end of July, according to the organizers of the Maccabiah, which this year is marking its 50th anniversary.

"They've reserved all of Netanyahu and every available room in Tel Aviv," said Maccabiah spokesman Zvi Vilder yesterday.

He said that about 4,500 athletes are expected but that the total number, including families and other accompanying people, would be almost 30,000. Rooms have also been reserved in

Herzliya, Jerusalem, Bat Yam, and Zichron Ya'acov, he said.

The budget for the Maccabiah, which is to take place from July 14 to July 24, is to be NIS 35 million, of which about half is to be covered by the participants and their sports organizations. About 8 percent is to be covered by the Education Ministry's Sports Authority and the remainder from the sale of tickets, sponsorships and donations.

The official opening is to be in the Ramat Gan Stadium and the closing ceremony in Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium.

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By DAVID RUDGE

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